SAMURAI OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION
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原作：壮野睦 ©

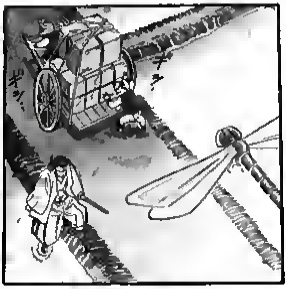
TABLE OF CONTENTS

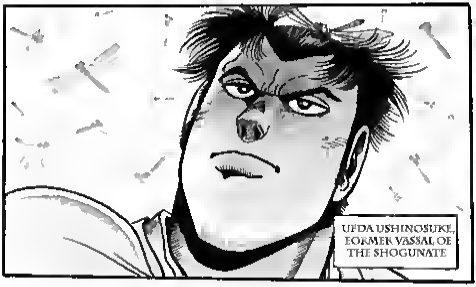
CHAPTER 1
CHAPTER 2
CHAPTER 3
CHAPTER 4
CHAPTER 5
CHAPTER 6
CHAPTER 7
CHAPTER 8
CHAPTER 9

THE SAMURAI OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION

CHAPTER 1

SHIZUOKA,
EARLY MEIJI
PERIOD...




UEDA USHINOSUKE, FORMER VASSAL OF THE SHOGUNATE

SORRY
UEDA! YOU'RE LATE!

I HAD TO GO HOME TO CHANGE MY SOCKS

THIS GUY SOLD HIS WHITE CLOTHES TO PAY FOR RICE!
HA HA
I THOUGHT WE DECIDED WE'D ALL WEAR WHITE TODAY.
WHAT'S WITH YOU, YAMA-MOTO?

HEY!

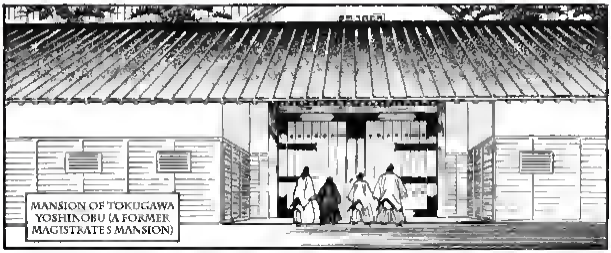
DIDN'T YOU TURN IN YOUR SWORD WHEN THE SWORD PROHIBITION WAS PASSED?

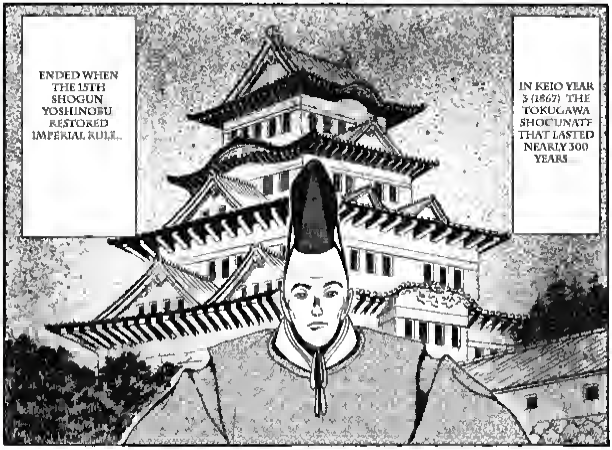
WELL, I DID JUST HAVE MY THIRD CHILD

WE WOULD HAVE NO HONOR AS WARRIORS IF WE ONLY CARRIED A SINGLE SHORT SWORD
BESIDES, IF WE RE GRANTED AUDIENCE WITH THE SHOGUN,

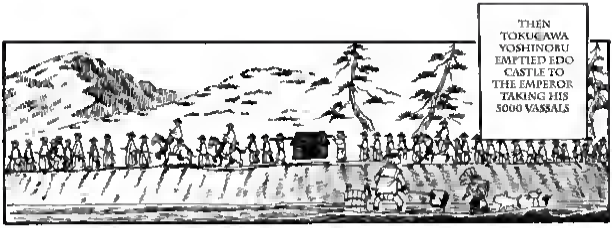
YOU EXPECT ME TO FOLLOW A LAW MADE BY THOSE ROTTEN OFFICIALS!?
THIS SWORD IS AN HEIRLOOM! I WON'T LET GO OF IT EVEN IF I HAVE TO STARVE!

PAAAAAAAAHHH!!!!!!!!!
BUT THEN AGAIN, A SHORT SWORD'S ALL YOU NEED FOR HARA-KIRI.
INOKI, HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING AGAIN!?
FMM... HIC!
WAH!
NOT-HING THAT'LL GET ME DRUNK!
JUST A FAREWELL CUP OF WATER WITH MY OLD MAN!
NOW, LET'S GO!!

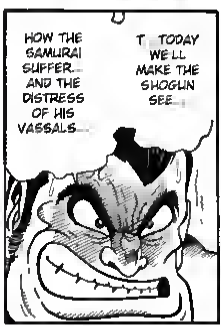

MANSION OF TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU (A FORMER MAGISTRATE'S MANSION)


ENDED WHEN THE 15TH SHOGUN YOSHINOBU RESTORED IMPERIAL RULE...
IN KEIO YEAR 3 (1867) THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE THAT LASTED NEARLY 300 YEARS...

LIKE BUSINESS MEN AT AN ENTERPRISE THAT HAS JUST GONE BANKRUPT...
THE MAJORITY OF THE FORMER SAMURAI AND VASSALS OF THE SHOGUN WERE SUDDENLY LEFT DIRECTIONLESS


THEN TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU EMPTIED EDO CASTLE TO THE EMPEROR TAKING HIS 5000 VASSALS

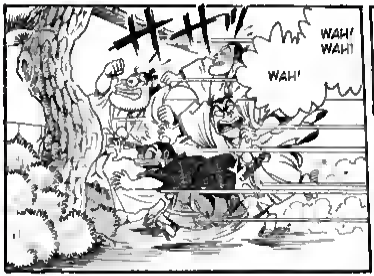
MAEDA!
YAMA-MOTO!
INOKI!
AND MOVING HERE TO KOYA, SHIZUOKA.


HOW THE SAMURAI SUFFER... AND THE DISTRESS OF HIS VASSALS...
T TODAY WE'LL MAKE THE SHOGUN SEE...

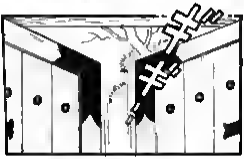
UH...OH...
ARE YOU ALL READY?

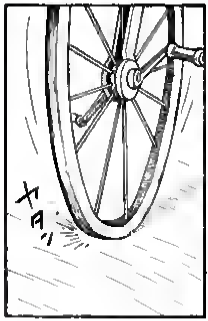
THEN LET US GO!

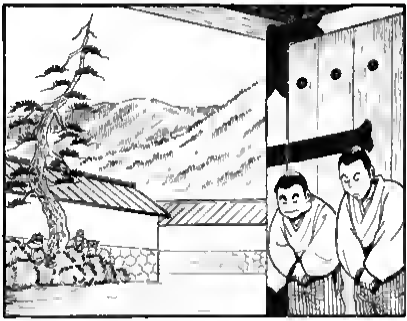
EXACTLY! LORD YOSHINOBU, REPUTED TO BE THE WISEST AMONGST THE TOKUGAWA CLAN, IS SURE TO UNDERSTAND OUR PAIN!
YES!


WAH! WAH!
WAH!

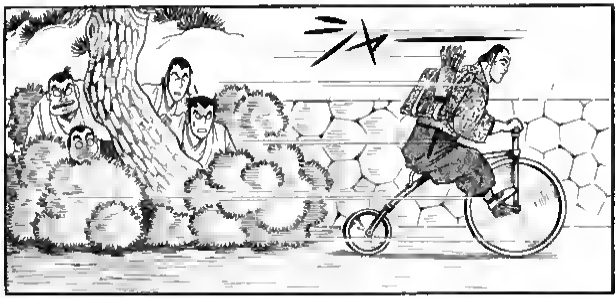
!?







WHEN WILL YOU BE RETURNING...?
WELL, I'LL BE BACK.
HMM... DEPENDS ON HOW WELL MY ART GOES OVER.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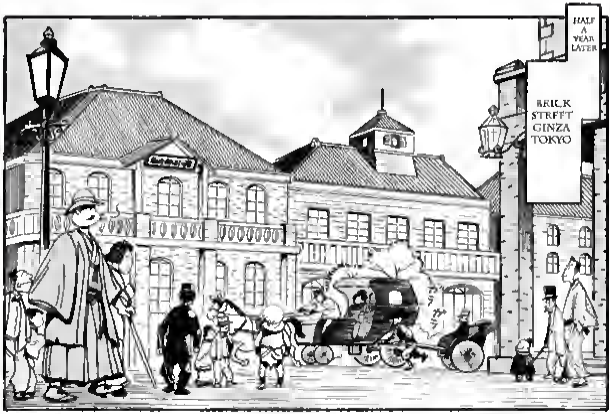
HALF A YEAR LATER
BRICK STREET GINZA TOKYO

ガラガラガラ

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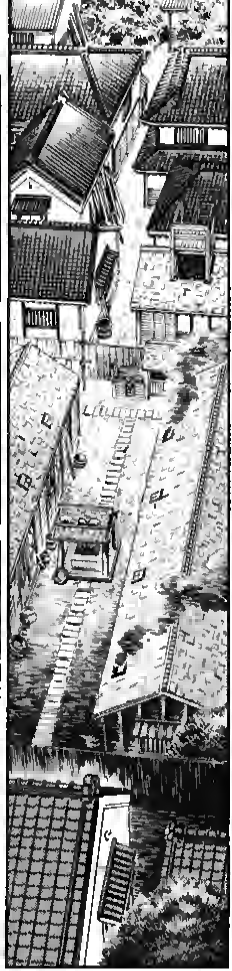
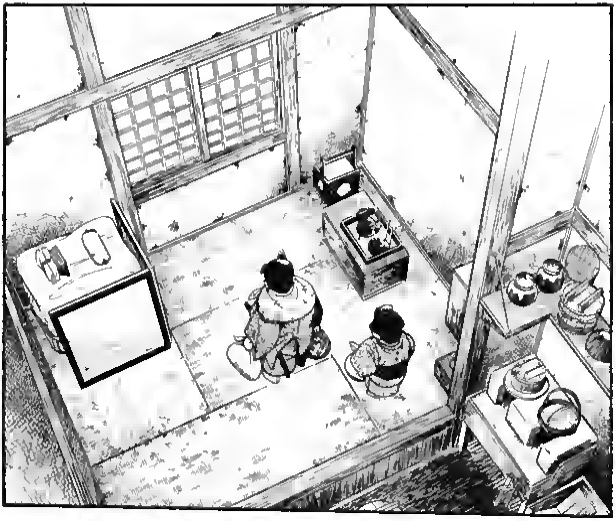
I'M MAKING MISO-COOKED MACKEREL! I FOUND ONE ON SALE!
WHAT'RE YOU MAKING FOR DINNER?

WAKAAH!!



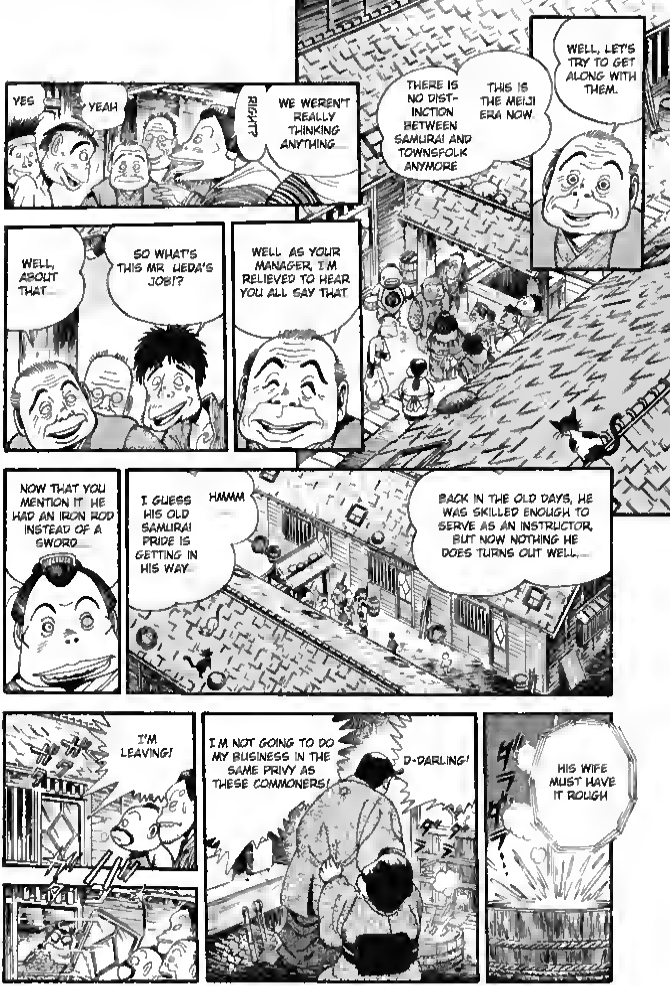
PHEW
WAHH!
HMM?
URRRGH!
ARE THOSE THE PEOPLE MOVING IN HERE?
YES
THEY'RE A FORMER SAMURAI COUPLE
WAAA-UGH!



I'M NOT GOING TO LIVE HERE LONG ENOUGH TO GET USED TO IT!!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

MY FEET ARE FAR CLEANER THAN THESE WORN-OUT MATS
BUT THEY DO SAY THAT "HOME IS WHERE YOU HANG YOUR HAT"
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT HERE

LET ME RINSE YOUR FEET
DON'T BOTHER.


YES
YEAH
RIGHT?
WE WEREN'T REALLY THINKING ANYTHING...
THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN SAMURAI AND TOWNSFOLK ANYMORE
THIS IS THE MEIJI ERA NOW.
WELL, LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG WITH THEM.
WELL, ABOUT THAT...
SO WHAT'S THIS MR. UEDA'S JOB!?
WELL AS YOUR MANAGER, I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR YOU ALL SAY THAT
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT HE HAD AN IRON ROD INSTEAD OF A SWORD...
I GUESS HIS OLD SAMURAI PRIDE IS GETTING IN HIS WAY...
HMMM...
BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, HE WAS SKILLED ENOUGH TO SERVE AS AN INSTRUCTOR, BUT NOW NOTHING HE DOES TURNS OUT WELL...
I'M LEAVING!
I'M NOT GOING TO DO MY BUSINESS IN THE SAME PRIVY AS THESE COMMONERS!
D-DARLING!
HIS WIFE MUST HAVE IT ROUGH

HUH?
TO FIND A JOB OF COURSE!
UHHH WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OR SO IT SEEMED
BECAME THE BU REAUCRATS AND OFFI CIALS' CLASS UNDER THE NEW MEIJI GOVERN MENT
THE SAMURAI CLASS ABOLISHED BY THE RESTO RATION
STRUGGLED TO FIND THEIR PLACE IN THIS ENLIGHTENED WORLD
BUT THE MAJORITY OF SAMURAI LIKE UEDA

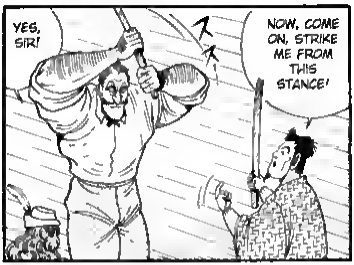
SO, THIS IS WHERE HE IS NOW...
南指術剣

HUH?
YOUR PARDON.

OH!
WITH A MASTER NAMED NAKA-MURA
THERE USED TO BE A DOJO HERE.

SIR NAKA-MURA!
VERY GOOD!
YES, WELL DONE, WELL DONE!

HAHA...


YES, SIR!
NOW, COME ON, STRIKE ME FROM THIS STANCE!

YES, YES. THIS IS THE STANCE YOU USE TO AIM FOR THE EYE

HIIII-YAAAAAAAN!
DARLING! FIGHT!
カラ
カラ

SEEMS I'LL HAVE MY LICENSE RIGHT AWAY!

SIR NAKA-MURA!

WOW!

WELL DONE, WELL DONE!

IT'S HARD TO MAKE A LIVING OFF SWORDSMAN-SHIP THESE DAYS

WAS THAT REALLY SWORDS-MANSHIP?

HEHE
剣禅一如

THE MAN WHO WOULD NEVER SHOW ANYONE IN HIS DOJO ANY MERCY EVEN YOUNG MINISTERS!
I CAN HARDLY CALL THAT THE SWORDSMANSHIP OF THE MAN KNOWN AS "NAKAMURA THE DEMON"

NAKAMURA THE DEMON* DIED IN THE RESTORATION.
ONLY NAKAMURA THE POOR DOJO MASTER IS LEFT.
SIR NAKA-MURA!
DOES THAT MEAN... YOU'VE ABANDONED YOUR SAMURAI HONOR?
HEHE "SAMURAI HONOR"...?
HEY! I'M COMIN' IN!!
OH!
YES YES!
DO YOU WISH TO BE A STUDENT HERE?
YEAH!
TEACH ME HOW TO SWING A LONG DAGGER!

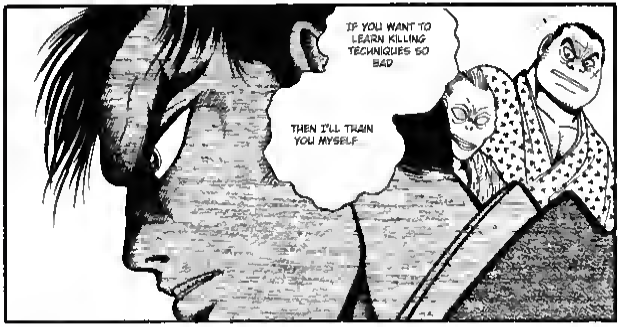
I'LL PAY YOU ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU WANT!
FORGET YOUR FUCKING REASONING AND JUST TEACH ME!

WELL, THAT IS A RATHER DANGEROUS REQUEST
I WANNA KNOW HOW TO CUT SOMEONE IN TWO AND COME OUT UNHURT!!

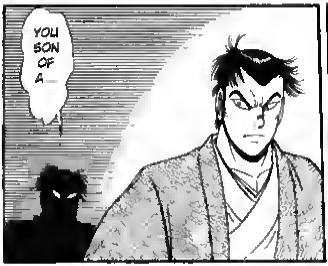
SWORDSMANSHIP AIN'T NOTHING BUT A TECHNIQUE FOR KILLING ANYWAY!
KOH!

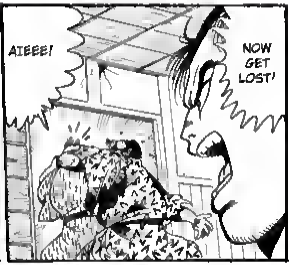
HEHEH
OH, WELL, WELL, WELL!

A GOLD COIN?


IF YOU WANT TO LEARN KILLING TECHNIQUES SO BAD
THEN I'LL TRAIN YOU MYSELF

NOW BRING IT ON!!
NOW SEE
NEXT TIME YOU SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE, YOU'RE DEAD!
AHHH...


YOU SON OF A...


AIEEE!
NOW GET LOST!

SIR NAKA-MURA

WHY MUST YOU INTERFERE WITH MY BUSINESS...?
I FINALLY COULD'VE HAD SOME NEW STU-DENTS FOR ONCE...

HAVING TO LIVE IN THIS AGE AND SUPPORTING A LARGE FAMILY...
YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND MY AGONY AS A WARRIOR...

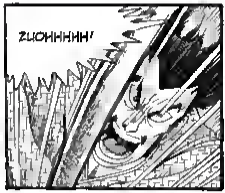
YOU BASTARD!
I DON'T EVEN THINK I WANT TO UNDER-STAND
I AM A SAMURAI! I WOULD SOONER THROW AWAY MY OWN LIFE THAN CAST ASIDE MY SOUL!!

CHAPTER 2

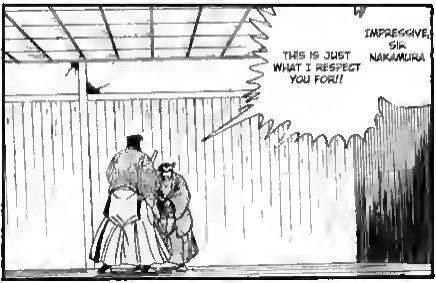
I HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS AGE OF MEIJI, WHILE SUPPORTING THE ELDERLY AND CHILDREN AS A SWORDSMAN!
SHEY AAAAAAAH!!
KCH!

A YOUNGSTER LIKE YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND MY AGONY!

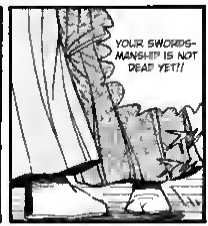
HUFF
HUFF


ZUOHHHHH!

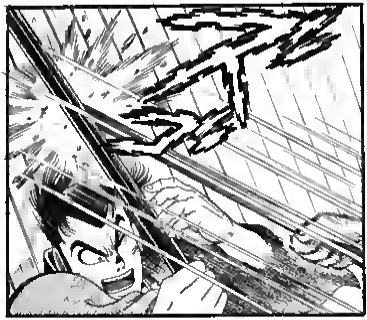
URK!


IMPRESSIVE, SIR NAKAMURA
THIS IS JUST WHAT I RESPECT YOU FOR!!

WHAT VALUE DOES MY SWORDSMANSHIP HAVE IN THIS MEIJI ERA!?
THEN ANSWER ME THIS!!


YOUR SWORDS-MANSHIP IS NOT DEAD YET!!

TELL ME WHAT PLACE THE SAMURAI HAVE IN THIS AGE!!
ANSWER ME UEDA USHINOSUKE!
HUH?

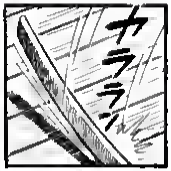


W WELL

WHAT PURPOSE DOES THAT IRON ROD SERVE BESIDES MAINTAINING YOUR HONOR!?

FATHER!

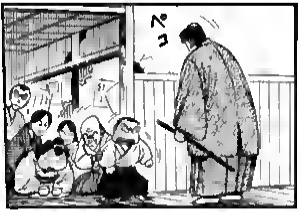
SIR NAKA-MURA.


カララン

ENOUGH, LEAVE!

MY APOLOGIES

HONEY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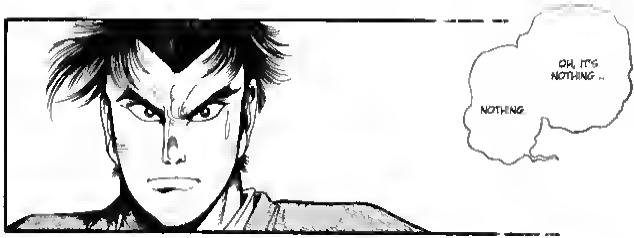

OH, IT'S NOTHING...
NOTHING

ゲラ ゲラ

WHAT VALUE DOES MY SWORDS-MANSHIP HAVE IN THIS MEIJI ERA!?
WHAT PURPOSE DOES THAT IRON ROD SERVE BESIDES MAINTAIN-ING HONOR!?

ENOUGH! LEAVE!

TELL ME WHAT PLACE THE SAMURAI HAVE IN THIS AGE!!

!?
ガラ ガラ
PULL ME BACK!
HEY RICKSHAW MAN!

MR. UEDA!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!
HY
ガラ
OHH, IF IT ISN'T DENPACHI!

ふふ!
BUT THANKS TO THAT I'VE MADE QUITE THE LIVING IN THE RESTORATION!

WELL MY ROBUSTNESS WAS EVER MY REDEEMING QUALITY EVEN WHEN I WAS JUST A MANSERVANT!
YOU'RE LOOKING WELL AS EVER!

HUH?
SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WELL—I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF THINKING

OH, I'VE JUST BEEN DOING A LITTLE TRADING DOWN IN YOKOHAMA.
YOU SEEM TO BE QUITE PROSPER-OUS

WELL
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT
I GUESS YOU'RE IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT POSITION FROM A MANSERVANT LIKE ME

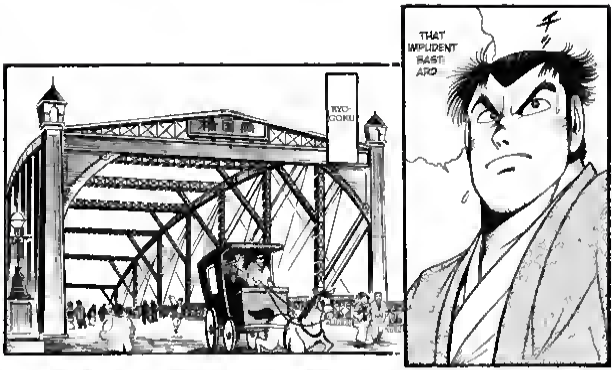
I STARTED OFF AS A LOAD CARRIER.
AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE JUST ANY OLD JOB WILL DO!

BABA ?

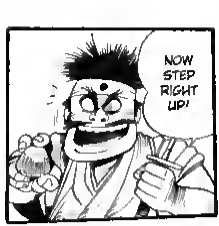
SEEMS THAT MR. BABA, THE ONE WHO WAS ALWAYS COMPETING WITH YOU, IS A STREET PEDDLER IN THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IN RYOGOKU
WHATEVER THE CASE, EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE IT ROUGH THESE DAYS.

ガラ ガラ ガラ
HIS BILLS FOR BEING SO COCKY WHEN HE CARRIED HIS SWORDS!

HUH?
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PAY THE BILLS, I SUPPOSE!
ガラ ガラ ガラ


THAT IMPUDENT BASTARD
RYO-GOKU

BEHOLD THE CUTTING EDGE OF MY BLADE!


NOW STEP RIGHT UP!

オオオー

THIS IS AN AGE WHERE SIR SAKAKIBARA KENKICHI, FORMER MASTER OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD,
THEN AGAIN
AND EVEN THE FAMED CHIBA CLAN PARTICIPATE IN FENCING TOURNAMENTS...

ARE YOU COMPARING FENCING TOURNAMENTS TO SELLING TOAD OIL?

I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE MY RIVAL HERE!
OF ALL THINGS

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN! CLINGING TO THE PAST!
I-I'M ONLY WEARING THIS BECAUSE I FEEL OFF-BALANCE WITHOUT ANYTHING ON MY SIDE!

NOW LEAVE! DON'T DISTURB MY BUSINESS ANY LONGER!

DON'T YOU FIND IT SHAMEFUL THAT YOU'RE WALKING AROUND WITH AN IRON ROD STILL CLINGING TO THE PAST?

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
HOW SHAMEFUL FOR A SAMURAI!

HE IS SAID IT AGAIN... IRON ROD ..

I DON'T NEED THIS!
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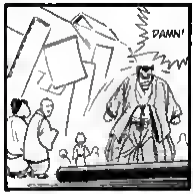
DAMN!

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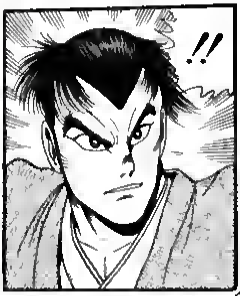
HEY THIRD-RATE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU...

I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU'LL SURVIVE THIS!
I'M IN A REALLY BAD MOOD RIGHT NOW!
THAT'S MY LINE!
YOU LOOKING FOR SOME PAIN AGAIN?
M... MISTER!
B... BASTARD!

ギイイ
AHH
MM FFF

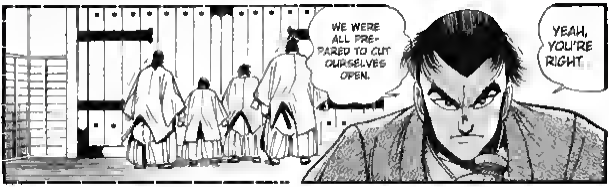
!!

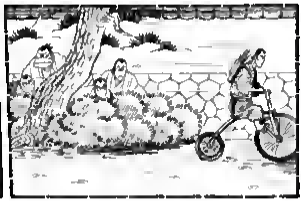
HE'S THE ONE, MISTER!
HEHE... A BODY GUARD HUH?


!!

HIC!

WAAAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAA!!!!!

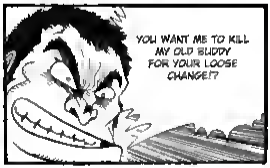




HUUUUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PROMISE TO HELP US OUT!?
W WAIT A MINUTE MISTER!
WE PAID YOU MONEY!

BUT ANYWAY IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR! LET'S DRINK THE NIGHT AWAY!
YEAH!

OH YES, THAT'S RIGHT!


YOU WANT ME TO KILL MY OLD BUDDY FOR YOUR LOOSE CHANGE!?

T-THEN ..CAN YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MONEY?

AIEEEEEEEEE!
SORRY BUT YOU NEED TO LEND ME ALL THE CASH YOU GOT!
THAT LOOSE CHANGE AIN'T GONNA BE ENOUGH TO BUY DRINKS FOR TWO

DAMN RIGHT!

EVEN A ROTTEN SEA BREAM IS STILL A SEA BREAM!

OF COURSE!
YOU CAN'T LOSE YOUR SAMURAI SPIRIT!
NO MATTER HOW LOW YOU FALL

NO MATTER WHAT THE AGE WE'RE STILL SAMURAI!
INDEED!

HMM!?
WE CAN'T POSSIBLY WORK ALONGSIDE THESE TOWNSFOLK, WITH THEIR DIFFERENT UPBRINGING AND EDUCATION.

THE FIFTEENTH SHOGUN TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU'S FAVORITE BICYCLE

ジャ——

YEAH! FUCK YOUR BICYCLE!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE AGONY OF UNEMPLOYMENT! FUCK YOUR BICYCLE!

AIBEEEE!
WA-UGH!
WHAT THE ...

HAVE A TASTE OF FIFTY BEERS WORTH OF PISS!!

CHAPTER 2 END

SAMURAI OF
THE MEIJI
RESTORATION
CHAPTER 3

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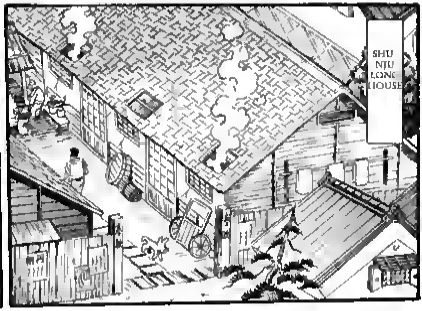
ガラ


SHU NIU LONG HOUSE

SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU ALL SO MUCH TROUBLE!
OH, DON'T MENTION IT!
ペコ

HE SAYS THE SAME THING EVERY DAY
IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU
YES

WHERE ARE YOU GOING HONEY?
TO LOOK FOR A JOB OF COURSE!

ペコ
COME BACK SOON!

ガラ

ガラ
ガラ

BUT AT LEAST HE TRIES HARD EVERY DAY. HE'S BOUND TO FIND A JOB SOON!

WELL... I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU SELLING SUNDRIES!
雑小間物

LONG TIME NO SEE!
HEY GENJI!

YEAH, THEY'RE JUST FINE!
THEY'VE BOTH GONE OUT TO SELL THEIR WARES!

ARE THEY DOING WELL, TOO ?
OH, THIS IS A BUSINESS MY WIFE AND DAUGTER-IN-LAW STARTED!
I'M JUST A SALESMAN!

YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW ARE OUT PEDDLING ?

HELP ME PICK OUT A HAIRPIN TO GIVE A REALLY PRETTY GIRL!
HEY POPS!

YOU CAN'T RUN A BUSINESS JUST WAITING AROUND FOR CUSTOMERS THESE DAYS!
スパスパ

FSSS
LET'S SEE...
SHE'S STILL ONLY EIGHTEEN,
BUT SHE'S PRETTY DAMN SEXY

WHY DO I HAVE TO PICK OUT THE HAIRPIN
FOR YOUR WOMAN!?
HUH!?

I'M IN A HURRY!
HEY WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR!?

I REFUSE!

IF YOU WANT ONE I'LL SELL YOU ONE
BUT FIND IT YOURSELF!
W...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? I'M A CUSTOMER YOU KNOW!

I WILL PERMIT NO FURTHER SLANDER FROM YOU!
BASTARD!

HEY
ARE YOU INSANE FOOS!?

COMING IN!

HM?

TALK ABOUT A LACK OF MANNERS...
DAMN IT...

AWAWA...
ドタドタ

DON'T COME BACK IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!
YEAH!
IDIOT!
I'M NOT COMING BACK, YOU KNOW!

THE WHOLESALE STORE MANAGER WANTS YOU TO AT LEAST PAY YOUR TAB FOR LAST MONTH...

I'LL PAY AS SOON AS I HAVE IT!

WE'RE NOT HERE ON A CHILD'S ERRAND OURSELVES, YOU KNOW
I TOLD YOU, I DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU WANT, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU COME!

NO AMOUNT OF BOWING IS WORTH EVEN A PENNY!
BUT MY WIFE BOWED TO YOU ON HER HANDS AND KNEES BECAUSE WE CAN'T!

YES!
SIR HEDA, ASSIST ME!

THE MANAGER OF THE WHOLESALE STORE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM ACCEPTING MY HEAD!!
IN THAT CASE... HOW ABOUT MY LIFE!?

BUT THE PATHETIC PART IS
WELL, YOU'RE JUST AS BOLD AS EVER! I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED!

WE GET IT ALREADY!

MPFF

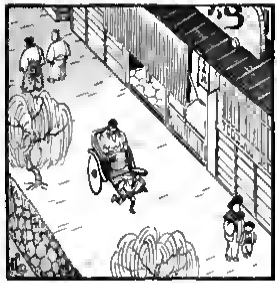
THAT I REALLY SHOULD HAVE DIED IN THE BATTLE ON MT. UENO.
I KEEP THINKING

EXCEPT A HUMBLE OLD KITCHEN KNIFE.
I HAVE NOTHING TO CUT MYSELF OPEN WITH

SIGN BELS

I GUESS SIR KOMORI HASN'T CHANGED A BIT...
ばば

うなぎ紀
蒲焼



I GOT DESPERATE AND HIRED A CHEF
BUT HE RAN OFF WHEN WAGES WERE TOO LOW...

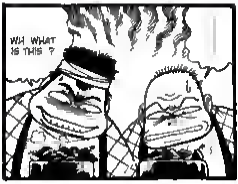
ALTHOUGH THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EATING FOOD AND MAKING IT
BUT I SEE THAT YOU'VE GOT A DELICIOUS BUSINESS GOING TO SUIT YOUR GOURMET NATURE, SIR TOKUBARA!

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE SIR KOMORI'S SUNDRIES STORE.

ニョロ
ニョロ
DO YOU DO THE COOKING, SIR TOKUBARA?
W...
WAAH!

AH!
YES, THANK YOU!
HEY! WE'LL HAVE TWO PORTIONS OF EEL-LIVER SOUP!

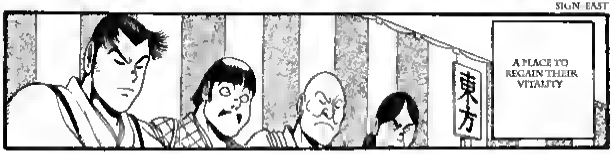
OH, I KNOW!
LIEDA!
YOU WANT TO TRY PREPARING AN EEL?
HUH?
YES. RIGHT AWAY!
WHY YOU LITTLE...
SUTHER SUTHER
WELL, USUALLY MY WIFE DOES THE COOKING.
BUT OUR CHILD BROKE OUT WITH A FEVER THIS MORNING, SO SHE TOOK HIM TO THE DOCTOR.
MAKE IT QUICK!
WE'RE STARVING OUT HERE!
COMPARED TO SWORDSMANSHIP USING A KNIFE SHOULD BE NOTHING FOR YOU!
OHHH! IMPRESSIVE!
HAAAH!



SGN. KENDO COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL

SUN WEST

SIGN EAST



KYEEEEEEK!!
THEN THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINS FOR ME EVEN IF PEOPLE SEE ME AS JUST ANOTHER CONTESTANT
IF I CANNOT THRIVE IN A DOJO WITHOUT LIVING LIKE SIR NAKAMURA.

THE POINT GOES TO SIR SENGOKU!!
ENOUGH!
I'LL SHOW THESE TOWNSOLK THE TERROR OF REAL SWORDSMANSHIP!
IF THEY'RE SO IMPRESSED BY THIS SUPERFICIAL SWORDSMANSHIP THAT'S NOTHING MORE THAN SHOW
AMAZING!
WOW!
ALL THESE MATCHES ARE SO INTENSE THEY'RE ALMOST FRIGHTENING!
I GUESS THAT'S FORMER SAMURAI FOR YOU!
SIR HEBA HSHINOSUKE OF THE YAGYU SHINKAGE STYLE!!
FROM THE EAST WE HAVE ...
THE FOURTH MATCH OF THE DAY WILL BE BETWEEN TWO CONTESTANTS WHO JUST SIGNED UP!
AND NOW FOR OUR NEXT MATCH!!

THIS MATCH WILL BE DECIDED BY THE FIRST BLOW!
YOU BOTH UNDER-STAND!

AND FROM THE WEST SIR YANAGIDA KAKUNOSHIN OF THE SHINDO MUNEN STYLE!!
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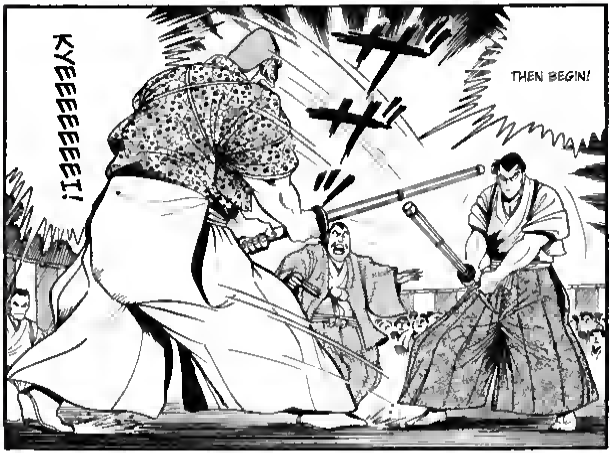
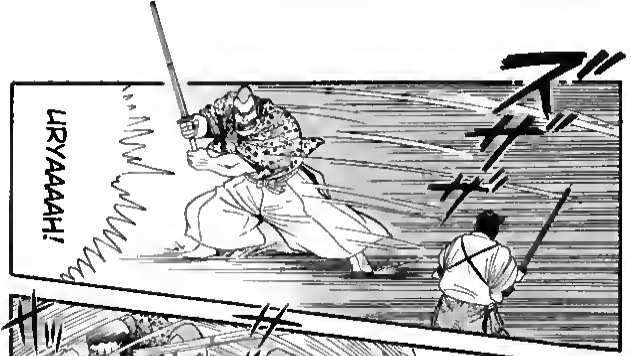
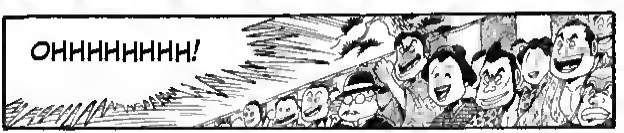
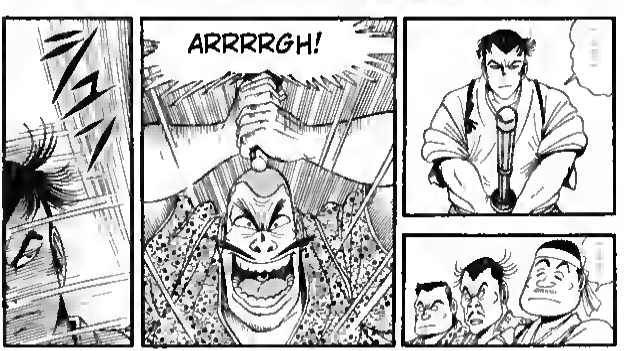

THEN BEGIN!
KYEEEEEEEI!

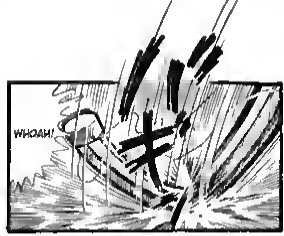

URYAAAAH!

TEI!
KYEEI!
TOOH!


OHHHHHHHH!


ARRRRGH!

SIR YANAGIDA, CHANGE YOUR SWORD!
TCH!


WHOAH!

HOLD THE MATCH!

UHRGH!
ビュン
ビュン

YOU EXPECT ME TO CROSS BLADES WITH SUCH TRANSPARENT STRIKES?

?
WHY DIDN'T YOU BLOCK THAT BLOW?

カシャ

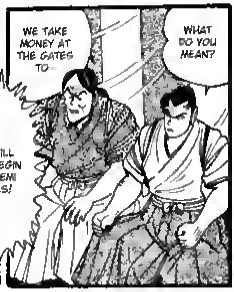
BEGIN THE BATTLE!
HAVE AT YOU!

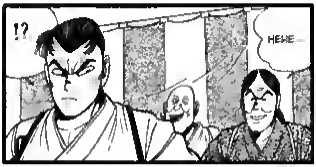
KYEEEEEEEEEI!

FORGET THE AUDIENCE. THE SWORDSMEN ARE SPEECHLESS IN FACE OF THE INTENSITY...

HMM?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE YOU ARE...?

FROM THE EAST SIR UEDA USHINOSUKE OF YAGYU SHINKAGE STYLE!!
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE SEMI FINALS!


WE TAKE MONEY AT THE GATES TO...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

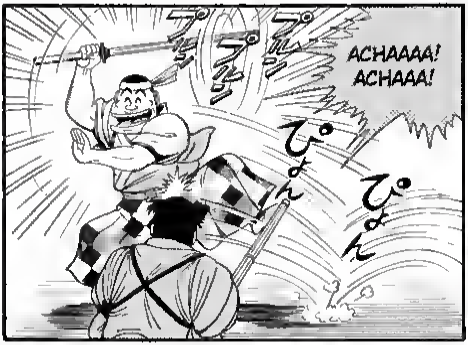

!?
HEHE...

YOU CAN JUST LET SIR KYUSAKU SHOW YOU WHAT A KENDO COMPETITION IS.

HEY!
FROM THE WEST, CHIBA KYUSAKU OF THE HOKUSHIN ITTO STYLE!!

ARE YOU BOTH READY?

WHAT WAS THAT?


ACHAAAA! ACHAAA!
ぴょん
ぴょん

BEGIN!

I_I SEE_
THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN!
HAH!
YOH!
WHAT THE
W_

HOW DARE A SWORDSMAN MAKE A SPECTACLE OF HIS SWORDPLAY!
THIS IS NO KENDO COMPETITION!

HUH!?
NO NEED TO TAKE THIS SO SERIOUSLY
NOW NOW

KNOW YOUR SHAME!!

THINK OF THE SPEC-TATORS, WILL YOU?
THERE, THERE!
TWIST TWIST
THAT WAS THE HONGSHAN TITO STYLE'S SPECIAL CORNER-TWISTING!
HUP, TO!
YOU'LL PAY!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
HUFF HUFF...

HOW DARE A SAMURAI SELL HIMSELF AS A CLOWN!
CHAPTER 4

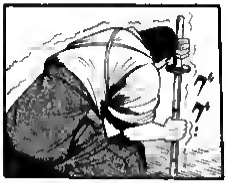
SFX: WAHAHAHAA!
UGAAAAH!
WHOA THERE!
HUH?
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP!
YOU BAS-TARD!
WOULD HAVE TO BE SALMON EYES!
THE CLOSEST THING TO A SAMURAI
WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHEN TOPKNOTS AND SWORDS ARE FORBIDDEN
YOU'RE STILL SPOUTING THAT ARE YOU?
MY MY
HOW DARE YOU TREAT ON A SAMURAI'S HEAD!!

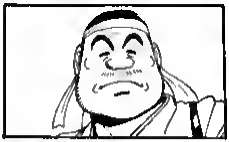
I CAN'T STAND YOU ANYMORE!
YOU DON'T GET IT DO YOU?
USSSH!
SIR CHIBA TAKE THE POINT. THAT'S ENOUGH!
HE GOT HIM!

カタン

THAT DOWN-AND-OUT SAMURAI CAN'T EVEN HOLD A CANDLE TO SIR CHIBA.
WHAT A FOOL.

THAT LAST MOVE WAS SO FAST I COULDN'T EVEN SEE IT!
THAT WAS AMAZING


ゲゲ!



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THAT WAS TOO SHALLOW

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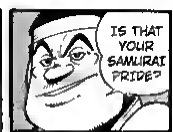
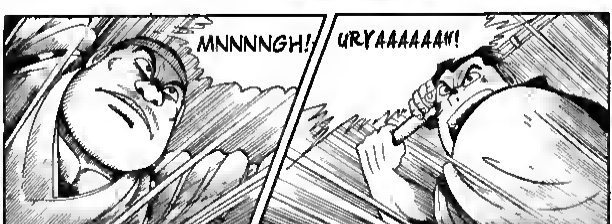
IT IS MY DUTY TO DIE BY THE SWORD
I AM A SAMURAI

YOU'LL SUFFER EVEN MORE IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING


IS THAT YOUR SAMURAI PRIDE?

YOU WHO HAVE ABAN-DONED IT WOULD NEVER UNDER-STAND


MNNNNGH!
URYAAAAAAH!

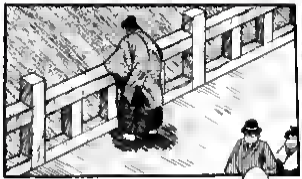
GUDOHAAAAH!
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY, IT'LL BE THE SAME EVERY TIME.
HUH!?
YEAH!
THAT'S INSANE

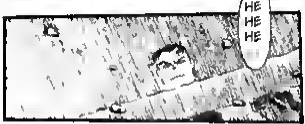
BOTH OF YOU, HALT!
HALT!

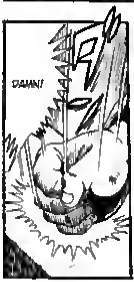
WAH!

ADADADAH!

THROW SOME WATER ON THEM!
HE'S NOT LETTING GO!
STOP!




HE HE HE


DAMN!

I'M THE ONLY CLOWN HERE!

SOME SAMURAI I AM...
HOW COULD I LET A MAN OF SUCH SKILL DO THIS TO ME...

LET'S HAVE A GOOD TIME, YAMA!

OHH!

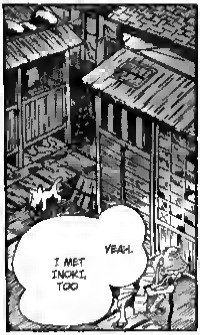
YAMA-MOTO

WHY DON'T WE GO PARTY AT YOSHIWARA?
OKAY. ONCE I'M DONE AT WORK TODAY
WA HA HA HA!

GUESS HE DIDN'T LIKE ME DOING CONSTRUCTION.

CONS-TRUC-TION?

BUT HE SAID WE WERE THROUGH RIGHT OFF THE BAT


YEAH.
I MET INOKI, TOO

DO YOU THINK I CAN FEED FIVE MOUTHS IN THIS AGE JUST BY MAKING UMBRELLAS?
HEY HEY

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A JOB MAKING UMBRELLAS.

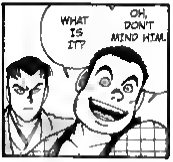
HEY! LOOK AT THIS!

BUT, STILL

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP
OH, IT'S FINE!

THAT LOOKS LIKE A DELICIOUS SQUASH!
WOW! IT'S SO BIG!
BUT WE CAN EAT IT TOGETHER!
WELL, THIS IS A GIFT!

OH, DO WE HAVE A CUST-OMER?


WHAT IS IT?
OH, DON'T MIND HIM.

HUH?
I...

ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
BUT WE'VE BARELY TALKED!
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU

ゲラ
THERE YOU ARE YAMA!

I THOUGHT BETTER OF YOU, TOO

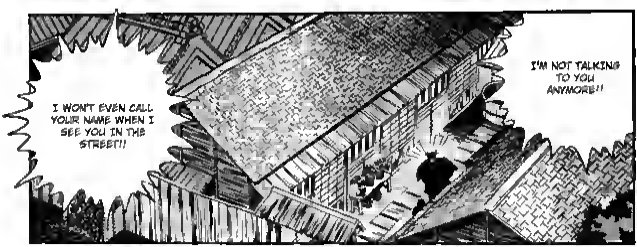
UEDA

I'LL GO! OF COURSE I'LL GO!
YES!

YOU'RE NOT YAMA.
HUH?

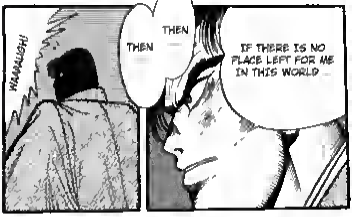
THE WAGES ARE PRETTY CHEAP AT THE FUKAGAWA CONSTRUCTION SITE BUT LET'S GO THERE!!
WE CAN WAIT TILL AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH WORK!

N-GGH..


I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU ANYMORE!!
I WON'T EVEN CALL YOUR NAME WHEN I SEE YOU IN THE STREET!!

NO...
IT'S FINE...
WAS IT SOMETHING I.. SAID.. ?

THAN LIVE SUCH A LIFE LIKE THAT!
I WOULD RATHER DIE..

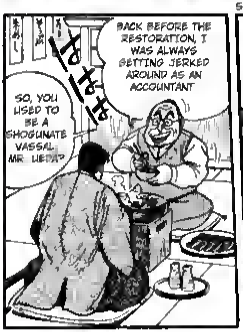

WAAAAUGH!
THEN
THEN ...
IF THERE IS NO PLACE LEFT FOR ME IN THIS WORLD ...

HUFF
HUFF
YOU'D BETTER MOVE IF YOU DON'T WANNA GET HURT, ASSHOLE!

HOLD IT YOU BASTARD!!
HELP!

FORGET IT! LET'S JUST KILL HIM!!

SIGN: BEEF BARBEQUE



HMPH!
AND YOU'LL NEVER LIVE IN THE MEIJI ERA WHICH CAN CATCH EVEN A WEASEL ASLEEP!

HAHA! BUT IT'S SUCH A TASTY AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD!
YOU KEEP UP THAT ANCIENT ATTITUDE.

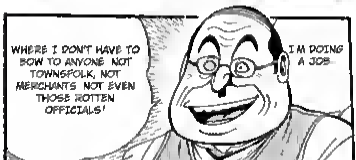
I'M STILL JUST IN THOUGHT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I MUST SAY, THE DEGRADATION OF WARRIORS IN RECENT DAYS IS TRULY DEPLORABLE!

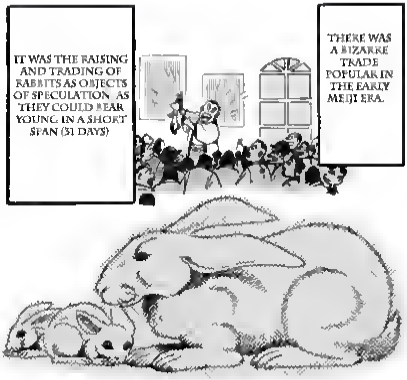
YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT, MR. UEDA!
AGREED!

I JUST DON'T INTEND TO ABANDON MY SAMURAI SPIRIT AND WORK!

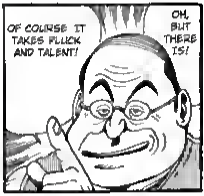
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?


WHERE I DON'T HAVE TO BOW TO ANYONE. NOT TOWNSFOLK, NOT MERCHANTS, NOT EVEN THOSE ROTTEN OFFICIALS!
I'M DOING A JOB.

BUT THE SAMURAI HAVE FALLEN TO THE GROUND NOW
AND EVEN THEIR OWN COMPANIONS WOULD FALL TO THEIR HANDS AND KNEES
BACK BEFORE THE RESTORATION, EVERYONE WOULD BOW AT THEIR FEET
むぅ


IT WAS THE RAISING AND TRADING OF RABBITS AS OBJECTS OF SPECULATION AS THEY COULD BEAR YOUNG IN A SHORT SPAN (31 DAYS)
THERE WAS A BIZARRE TRADE POPULAR IN THE EARLY MEIJI ERA.

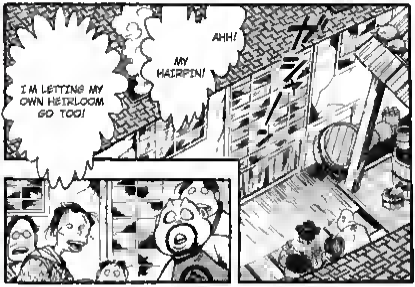
IS THERE SUCH A JOB?


OH, BUT THERE IS!
OF COURSE IT TAKES PLUCK AND TALENT!

EIGHT HUNDRED YEN FOR ONE RABBIT?

MILLET'S THE ONLY FOOD THEY NEED
AND IN LAST MONTH'S AUCTION, ONE FEMALE WITH GOOD BREEDING SOLD FOR EIGHT HUNDRED YEN

CAN YOU MAKE THAT MUCH?
WELL, EVEN IF YOU LEAVE THEM ALONE,
RABBITS KEEP ON MULTI-PLYING

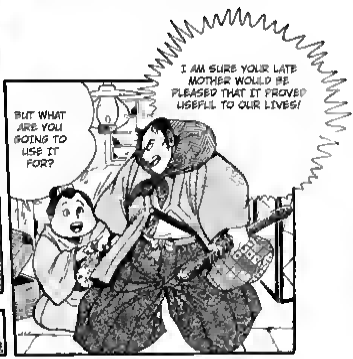

AHH!
MY HAIRPIN!
I'M LETTING MY OWN HEIRLOOM GO TOO!

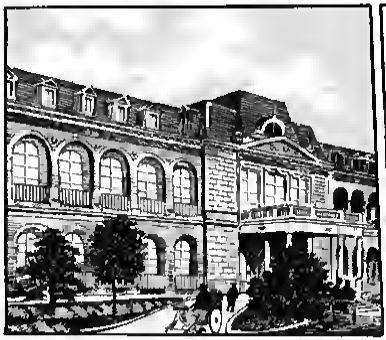
OH, BUT ONE WENT FOR A THOUSAND IN THE NEXT AUCTION

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS!

ALI YA AH!
WAAH!

FOR WORK, OF COURSE!

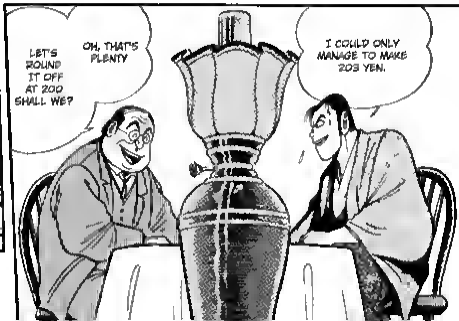

BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO USE IT FOR?
I AM SURE YOUR LATE MOTHER WOULD BE PLEASED THAT IT PROVED USEFUL TO OUR LIVES!



YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THAT!
UMM. WE'LL BE SAYING GOODBYE TO THIS LONG HOUSE SOON!

YES...

NOW AT FIVE YEN APIECE, I'LL WRITE YOU THE DEED FOR 40


LET'S ROUND IT OFF AT 200 SHALL WE?
OH, THAT'S PLENTY
I COULD ONLY MANAGE TO MAKE 203 YEN.

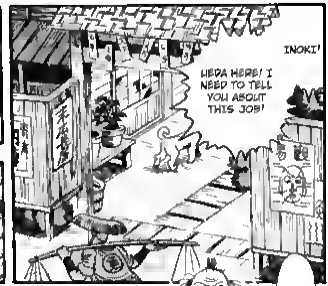
YES!

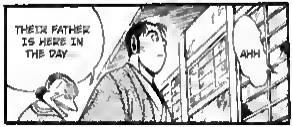
I JUST WANT TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY THROUGH THIS JOB TO RESTORE THE HONOR OF THE FALLEN SAMURAI

I'LL LEAVE ALL THE RAISING TO YOU, SO JUST SET THEM ASIDE FOR ME!

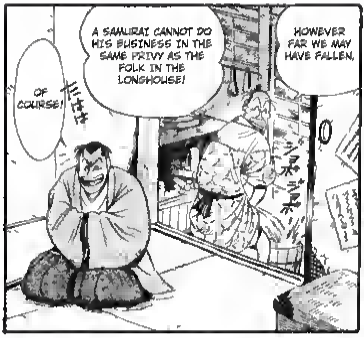
HAHA! YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'M RAISING FIVE THOUSAND!

HUH?
HE AND HIS WIFE ARE OUT TODAY


INOKI!
HEDA HERE! I NEED TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS JOB!


THEIR FATHER IS HERE IN THE DAY
AHH

AS FOR ME I'M TRULY BECOMING SENILE
WELL, I'M JUST GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE WELL
IT HAS TRULY BEEN SOME TIME
PFFF HAHA!


A SAMURAI CANNOT DO HIS BUSINESS IN THE SAME PRIVY AS THE FOLK IN THE LONGHOUSE!
OF COURSE!
HOWEVER FAR WE MAY HAVE FALLEN,

'SCUSE ME FOR A SECOND
OH, OF COURSE NOT!

BUT I DON'T HAVE A PENNY TO MY NAME!

NOW, I'D LIKE TO TREAT YOU TO A DRINK TO CELEBRATE OUR REUNION.

STILL, THE FACT THAT HE'S MAKING HIS WIFE WORK...
...MEANS THERE'S NO POINT IN TELLING INOKI ABOUT THE RABBIT TRADE.

PHEW

AH, YES
WELL, I'D BEST BE OFF
THE TAVERN IS JUST DOWN THAT ALLEYWAY
AND SASHIMI WOULD MAKE SOME NICE APPETIZERS

十五代将軍
徳川慶喜公
直筆油絵
SIGN: OIL PAINTINGS BY THE 15TH SHOGUN TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU
I'LL SHOW THE NATION THE SPIRIT OF THE SAMURAI YOU ABANDONED!
HMPH JUST YOU WAIT

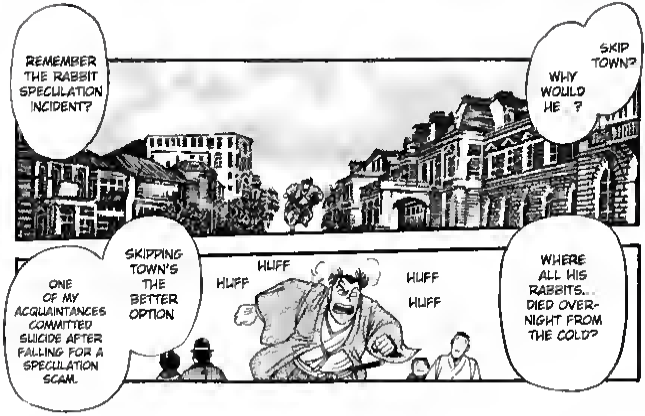
WELL, HE WAS HARBORING SOME BITTERNESS OVER MONEY...
SOME PEOPLE CAN BE SO CRUEL.

A FEW DAYS LATER

SO THOSE ARE JUST THE SACRIFICES OF HIS DREAM OF GETTING RICH QUICK...

AND TROUBLES WOULD ALSO OCCUR FROM THEIR FLUCTUATING VALUE AS IS A CONSTANT IN SPECULATION
AS RABBITS ARE VULNERABLE TO THE COLD THEY COULD OFTEN BE WIPED OUT ALL IN ONE NIGHT
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

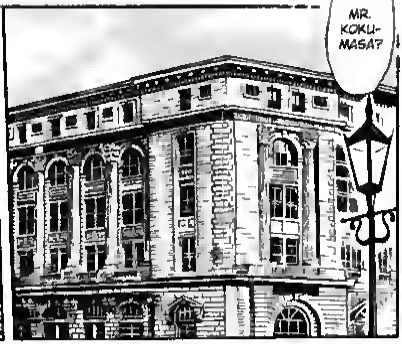
UNLIKE TODAY HEATING UNITS WERE SCARCE BACK IN THE DAY
THERE WAS A GREAT RISK INVOLVED IN RABBIT SPECULATION



CHAPTER 5

HUFF

HUFF HUFF

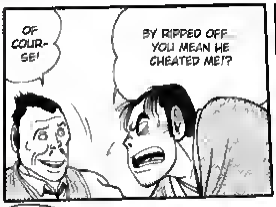


SIGN: JAPAN SPECULATORS' MARKET

OH, YOU GOT RIPPED OFF BY HIM, TOO?
KOKUMASA?
!!

NO...
WOULD HAVE TO BE CANARIES OR NANKING MICE, SIR!
THE NEXT TARGET

A MAN BY THE NAME OF KOKUMASA
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...


OF COURSE!
BY RIPPED OFF... YOU MEAN HE CHEATED ME!?

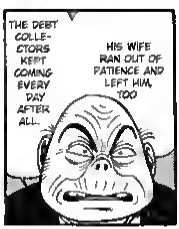
KOKUMASA WOULD ALWAYS MENTION HIS WORK AS A FORMER VASSAL'S ACCOUNTANT AS A SELLING POINT TO GATHER A LOT OF MONEY FROM FORMER WARRIORS

AND HE'S GONE FAR INTO DEBT!
THE MAN'S HAD A STRING OF SPECULATION FAILURES

WHERE WOULD HE RAISE RABBITS IN THAT DIRTY OLD LONG-HOUSE OF HIS?
BWA HA HA!
BUT HE WAS RAISING OVER A THOUSAND RABBITS!!

I'M SURE THAT HE'S SENT YOUR MONEY OFF TO THE DEBT COLLECTORS!
AND IT'S NOT JUST A THOUSAND OR TWO THOUSAND YEN, EITHER.

SIGN: SEVEN GODS OF FORTUNE LONGHOUSE

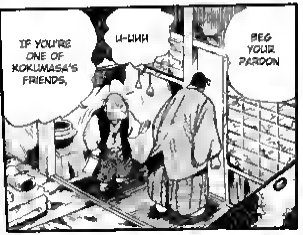


WHO WOULD PAY RENT FOR THIS DUMP!?

HUH?

IF I KNEW WHERE HE WAS I'D GO AND COLLECT MY OVERDUE RENT!
I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE.

THEN MAY I PARDON YOU TO PAY HOW-EVER MUCH OF THE RENT YOU CAN?


IF YOU'RE ONE OF KOKUMASA'S FRIENDS,
U-UHH
BEG YOUR PARDON

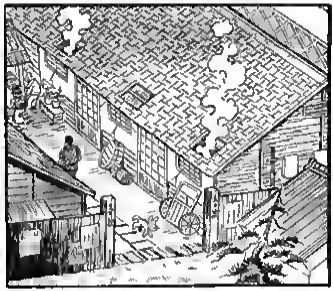
I'M A FORMER SAMURAI, TOO!
YOU LOW BORN BASTARD!

I TRUSTED HIM BECAUSE HE SAID HE WAS A FORMER SAMURAI...

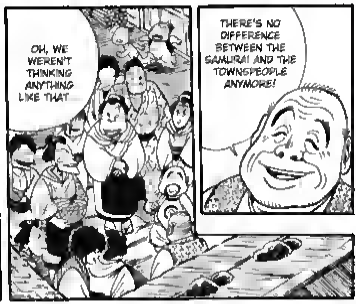
BUT GOD DAMN, HOW FAR THE SAMURAI HAVE FALLEN...

HEY! HEY!
OUT OF MY WAY!
ガラガラ
BETTER MOVE OR I'LL RUN YOU OVER AND KILL YOU!
ガラガラ
YOU DID JUST THAT...
I'D RATHER...
HIH HIH
WELL...
IT MIGHT JUST BE...
THAT THE AGE OF MEIJI HAS NO PLACE FOR THE SAMURAI TO LIVE...

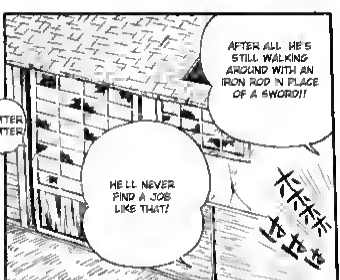
WELL, LET'S GET ALONG ALRIGHT?



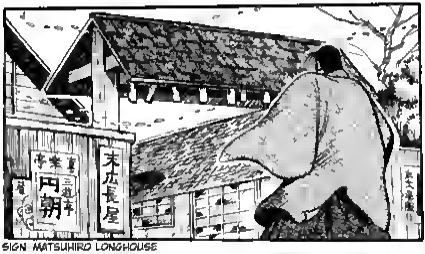
RIGHT!
RIGHT?


OH, WE WEREN'T THINKING ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SAMURAI AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE ANYMORE!

YES!
HISA'S ALREADY GOTTEN HER A SIDE JOB.

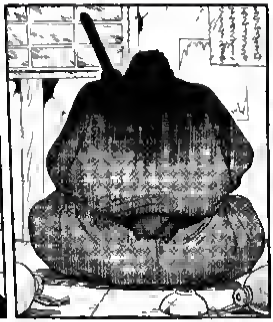

AFTER ALL, HE'S STILL WALKING AROUND WITH AN IRON ROD IN PLACE OF A SWORD!!
CLATTER CLATTER
HE'LL NEVER FIND A JOB LIKE THAT!

IT'S JUST HER HUSBAND
RIGHT, RIGHT!
AND UME'S A VERY CLEVER PERSON.



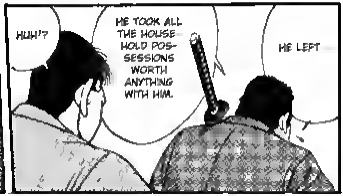
SIGN MATSUHIRO LONGHOUSE

AND WHERE'S THE OLD MAN..?
SO YOU'RE HOME ALONE TODAY?

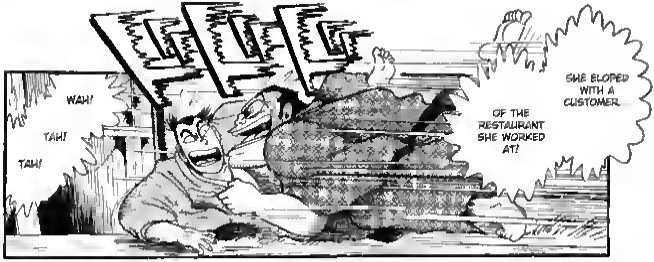


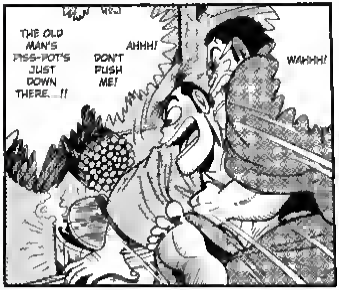
IS THE OLD MAN WATCHING THE HOUSE ALONE AGAIN?

NOT JUST HIM... EVEN MY WIFE...


HUH!?
HE TOOK ALL THE HOUSE HOLD POSSESSIONS WORTH ANYTHING WITH HIM.
HE LEFT...

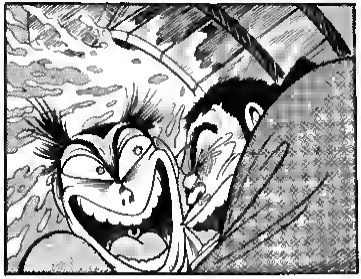
WAAAAAHHHHHH!!!!!!!!
HUH!?


WAH!
TAH!
TAH!
OF THE RESTAURANT SHE WORKED AT!
SHE ELOPED WITH A CUSTOMER

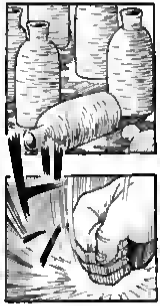

THE OLD MAN'S PISS-POT'S JUST DOWN THERE...!!
AHHH!
DON'T PUSH ME!
WAHHH!

SHE ABANDONED ME!
MY BELOVED SHINO
MY WIFE

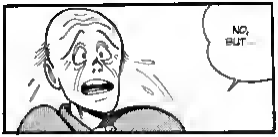
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE ALONE!?

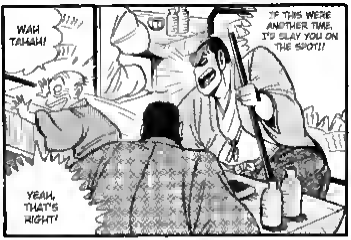


PLEASE LET ME DRINK!
SAKE! GIVE ME SOME SAKE!
YAAAAAAAAAAH!



SIGN ENLIGHTENMENT HOUSE





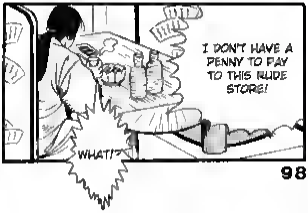
I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS STORE'S KITCHEN
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

THE DAYS WHEN YOU WENT AROUND CARRYING SWORDS ARE LONG OVER!

YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE
OH!? A CHEF DARES DEFY A SWORDSMAN?

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT!
YOU'D BETTER PAY YOUR BILL AND LEAVE
THE HELL!?

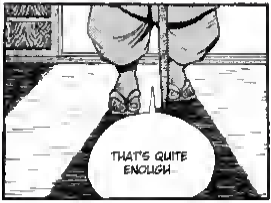
YOU KEEP SPOUTING RUBBISH!
LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE!


I DON'T HAVE A PENNY TO PAY TO THIS RUDE STORE!
WHAT!?

※当時の巡査(警察官)。

I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE, MOHEI.
MF
HIC!
NO. A DRUNK OR TWO ISN'T THAT BIG A DEAL
NOW COME AT ME AT ONCE!
BESIDES I'VE HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST THE SAMURAI SINCE BEFORE THE RESTORATION!
KCH SO HE'S A FORMER SUMO WRESTLER.
NO WONDER HIS FRAME'S SO BIG
YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN NEED TO DRAW YOUR SWORD AGAINST THIS SCUM
BAST-ARD!

ARRGGGH!!!
IF YOU WON'T BRING IT, THEN I WILL!
SOMEONE HURRY AND CALL THE POLICE!
AHH! MOHEI!
AIEE!
HOLD IT!


THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH.

HEH HEH
LET'S GO BACK INSIDE AND GET DRUNK AGAIN!
MF FF

HMM
IF YOU TWO ARE REALLY FORMER SAMURAI
THEN YOU SHOULDN'T CAUSE TROUBLE FOR THE TOWNSFOLK.
THE HELL!?

A TRUE SAMURAI NEVER DRINKS UNTIL HE'S DRUNK!

YOU SEEM PRETTY ASSERTIVE, MISTER. ARE YOU DRUNK?

HUH?

YOU INTRUSIVE BASTARD!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT

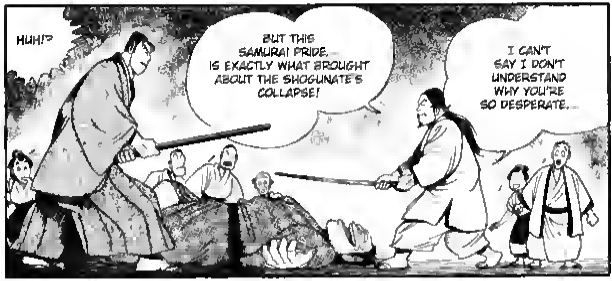
ARE YOU A SAMURAI, TOO!?

DAMN YOU!
ドサ

I'M JUST AN OLD MAN WHO LIVES BY HIKAWA

HEHE

WHO COULD THIS OLD MAN BE?


HUH!?
BUT THIS SAMURAI PRIDE... IS EXACTLY WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE SHOGUNATE'S COLLAPSE!
I CAN'T SAY I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO DESPERATE...

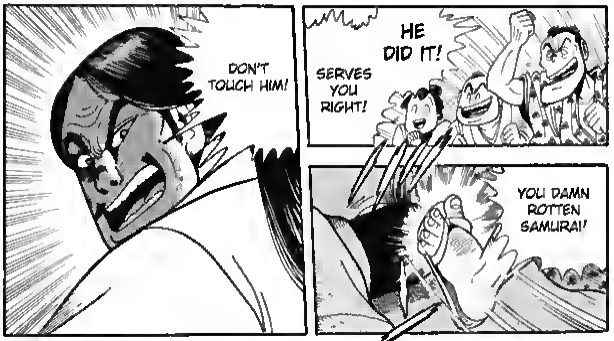
THAT'S ENOUGH OF YOUR WHINING!!

YOU TALK LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!

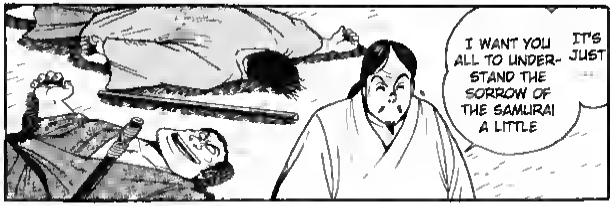
YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND OUR AGONY!

Y...

GH...


DON'T TOUCH HIM!
HE DID IT!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!
YOU DAMN ROTTEN SAMURAI!

SORRY...
UH
OH
AIEE!

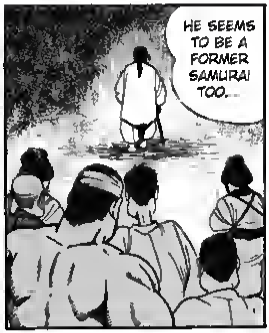

I WANT YOU ALL TO UNDERSTAND THE SORROW OF THE SAMURAI
IT'S JUST A LITTLE

BESIDES, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THESE PEOPLE, DO YOU?
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT AFTER YOU SAVED US.

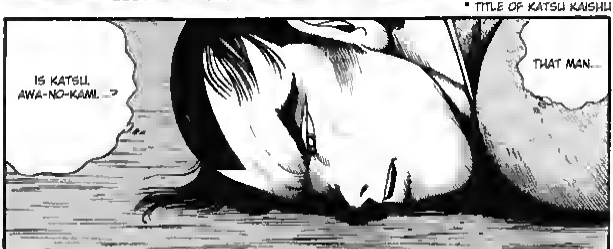
PLUS YOUR CHEF'S MEDICAL BILL
AND I'LL PAY THEIR TAB,

BESIDES, PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM GOING ASTRAY
IS MINE

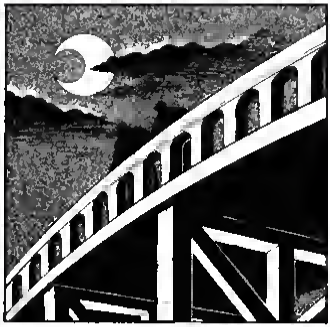
ALL FORMER SAMURAI ARE LIKE MY OWN RELATIVES
IT'S NOTHING



* TITLE OF KATSU KAISHU



CHAPTER 6



THERE MAY BE NO PLACE FOR US IN THIS WORLD...

I HEAR THAT DISCONTENTED WARRIORS LIKE US ARE GATHERING IN SAGA...

HEY YOU WANNA GO TO KYUSHU?

BUT EVERYONE'S GATHERING UNDER SIR ETO SHINPEI, THE FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT...

I DON'T KNOW THE PARTICULARS...
ARE THERE RUMORS OF SAMURAI REVOLTING!?

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO LOSE!
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS HOW I'M GOING TO DIE!

DO THEY INTEND TO FIGHT EVENTUALLY?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I'M STILL GOING ANYWAYS!

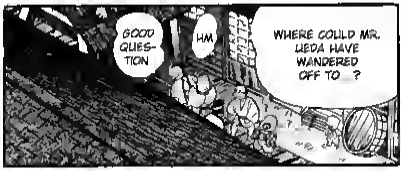
URRGH.

YES! I'D RATHER DIE AS A SAMURAI...
THAN LIVE THIS PITIFUL LIFE!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEY!

WAIT FOR ME HERE ONCE YOU'RE PREPARED TO TRAVEL! I'LL BE THERE ONCE I WRITE A LETTER OF DIVORCE TO MY WIFE!

NO, HE'S NOT HERE YET!
DID YOU FIND HIM?
HEY


GOOD QUES-TION
HM.
WHERE COULD MR. UEDA HAVE WANDERED OFF TO...?

UME'S BETTER OFF PARTING FROM ME AND LIVING A NEW LIFE, ANYWAY!!

HMM!?
IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!?

HE'S FINALLY BACK!
OHH!

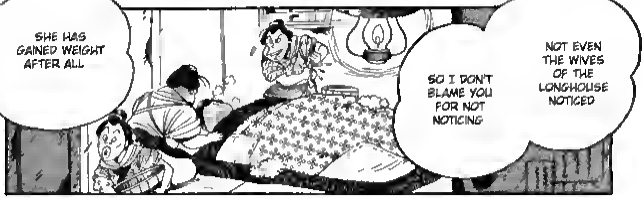
YOUR WIFE, UME!
WHO'S GONE INTO LABOR!?

LABOR!?

SINCE SHE KNEW HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU WERE GOING THROUGH LOOKING FOR A JOB.
I'M SURE YOUR WIFE DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU

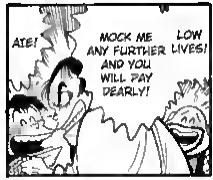
LIME!?

HUFF HUFF
I... DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THIS!


SHE HAS GAINED WEIGHT AFTER ALL...
SO I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NOT NOTICING
NOT EVEN THE WIVES OF THE LONGHOUSE NOTICED

AHHHHHHH!

THE LETTER OF DIV ORCE...
AHH...BUT SAGA...
HUH!?


ATE!
MOCK ME ANY FURTHER AND YOU WILL PAY DEARLY!
LOW LIVES!

TO GIVING BIRTH TO MY GIRL!?
LIME...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, LIME!?
DAR-LING

LIME!

GIVE BIRTH TO A HEALTHY CHILD, LIME!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WELL DONE, LIME!
I'M SORRY THIS HAD TO HAPPEN AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME.

GROCER!?

IMPUDENT FOOLS!

WE'VE ALREADY CALLED A MIDWIFE
THE OLD WOMAN FROM THE GROCER OUT BACK, NAMED KUMA
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, MR. UEDA

I WILL NOT LET THE PRECIOUS HEIR OF MY CLAN BE TORN OUT BY A MERE TOWNSPERSON!!

BUT THE UEDA CLAN IS A FORMER SAMURAI CLAN!
I MAY BE UNEMPLOYED NOW
HUH!?

THAT'S CRAZY!
IT COULD EVEN BE FATAL!

UNTIL I BRING BACK A PROPER DOCTOR!
DO NOT LET ANYONE TOUCH THE CHILD
NOW LISTEN!

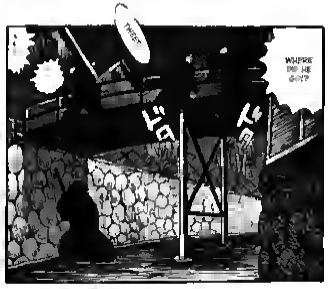
PLEASE! A BABY IS ABOUT TO BE BORN!
SHINJU LONG-HOUSE? OH, YOU MEAN THE LONGHOUSE OUT BACK!

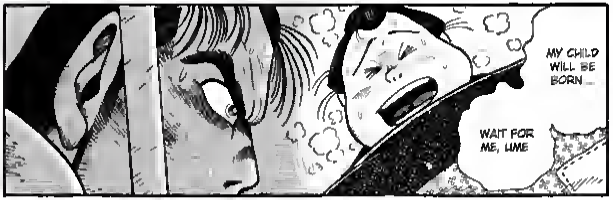
WOULD YOU PLEASE COME TO SHINJU LONG-HOUSE!?
PARDON ME!

WESTERN DOCTOR TAKEMI TARO

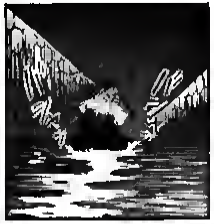
SFX. YAWWWN!

GO AROUND THE OTHER WAY!!
HUH?
HUH?
HUH?
HE'S NOT OVER HERE!


THUD!
WHERE DID HE GO?


MY CHILD WILL BE BORN...
WAIT FOR ME, UME

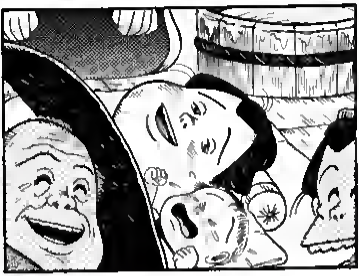
I... I'LL BRING A DOCTOR SOON

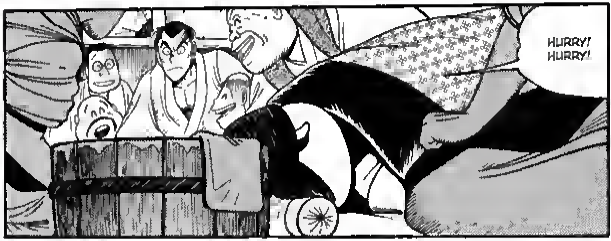


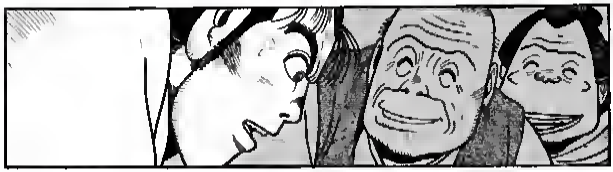
Arrrrrgghhhh!
Aieeeee!
MG-GHH
FORGIVE ME, UME
NO MATTER HOW FAR I'VE FALLEN, I CAN'T STOOP TO RANDOM SLASHING...

WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!

C'M-ON!
HUH?
MR. UEDA!




HURRY! HURRY!



IT'S A HEALTHY BOY...

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. UEDA.

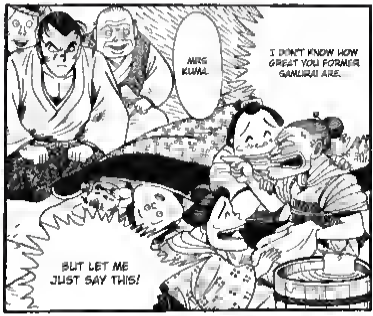
SPLASH SPLASH

WAAAAAH! WAAAAAAH!

HURRY AND HOLD HIM!

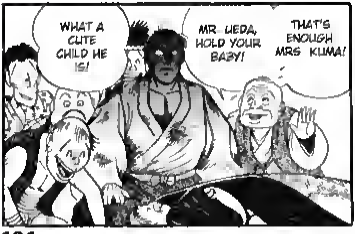
SEE, LOOK HOW CUTE HE IS!

ARE YOU THE HUSBAND!?

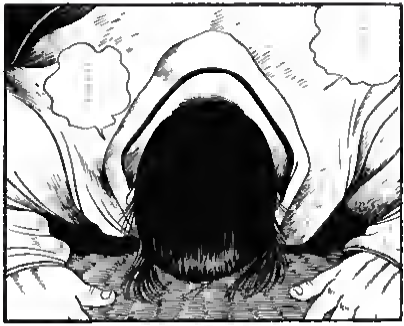

MRS. KUMA!
I DON'T KNOW HOW GREAT YOU FORMER SAMURAI ARE.
BUT LET ME JUST SAY THIS!

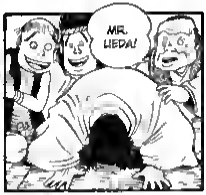
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
IF I'D GOTTEN HERE ANY LATER, IT WOULD'VE BEEN TOO LATE!
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T LET A TOWNSPERSON DELIVER YOUR BABY?

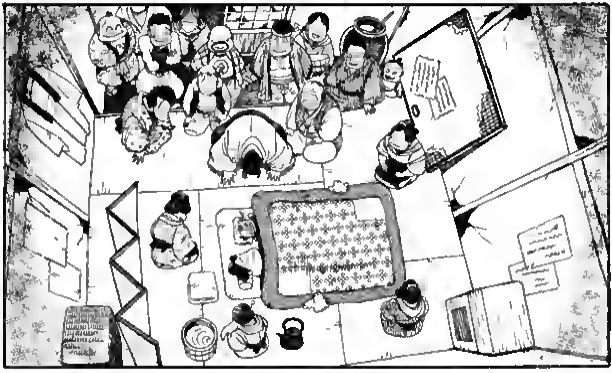
SAMURAI BABIES ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM TOWNSFOLK BABIES!!

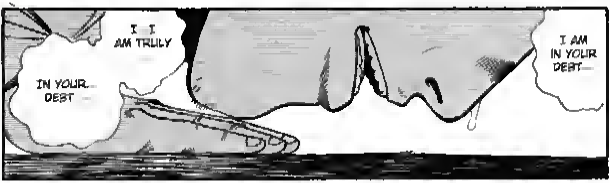

WHAT A CUTE CHILD HE IS!
MR. UEDA, HOLD YOUR BABY!
THAT'S ENOUGH MRS. KUMA!

IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, SAY SOMETHING!!




MR. LIEDA!




I I AM TRULY
IN YOUR DEBT
I AM IN YOUR DEBT

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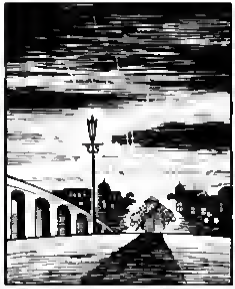

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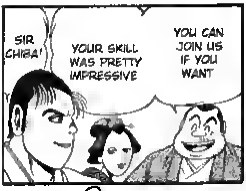
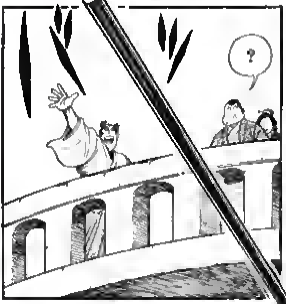
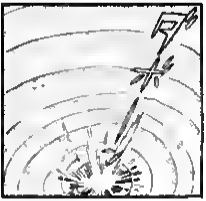
HEHE... YOU SEEM AS SULLEN AS EVER.

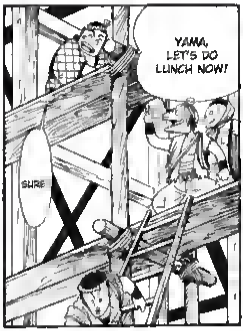

SIR CHIBA!
YOUR SKILL WAS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE
YOU CAN JOIN US IF YOU WANT

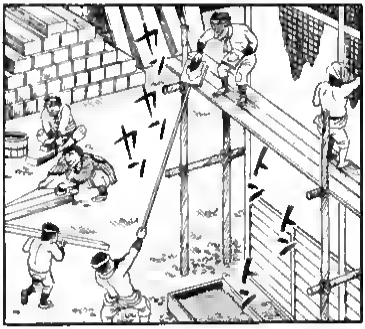

?

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO LEARN, THOUGH...
BUT YOU CAN'T DRAW CUSTOMERS WITH STRENGTH ALONE IN A KENDO COMPETITION...

MY APOLOGIES...




YAMA, LET'S DO LUNCH NOW!
SURE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トントン

THE ONLY JOBS I CAN GET YOU WOULD BE AS A CONSTRUCTION WORKER. OR A HEAVY LIFTER.

I DON'T CARE WHAT JOB I HAVE. JUST PLEASE

BUT TOKUGAWA YOSHINOBU, WHO REIGNED OVER THESE WARRIORS, WAS GIVEN THE RANK OF DUKE BY THE GOVERNMENT AND HAILED WITH THE HONOR OF BEING THE LAST SAMURAI

MEIJI YEAR 7: THE SAGA REBELLION. YEAR 9: THE HAGI REBELLION, THE SHINPUREN REBELLION. YEAR 10: THE SATSUMA REBELLION. THE DISCONTENTED SAMURAI STAGED REBELLION AFTER REBELLION, BUT EACH OF THESE WAS SUPPRESSED

CHAPTER 6 END

JUNE,
MEIJI
YEAR X

EXTRA! EXTRA!
COUNCILLOR HIROSAWA MASAOMI..
IT'S AWFUL!
FROM THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR AFFAIRS, WAS ASSASSINATED AT MIDNIGHT!
CHAPTER 7

GARGLE GARGLE
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF COOKING SOME GREENS.
YOU HAVING MISO SOUP TONIGHT?
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
WELL, I'VE GOT SOME GOOD CLAMS SO HELP YOURSELF!

HAS YOUR BODY BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE SUDDEN SWITCH TO HEAVY LABOR?

THANKS TO YOU!

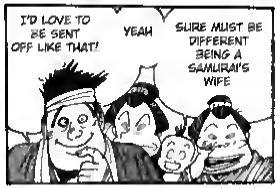
WELL, HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO WORKING?
YES
GOING OUT, MR. UEDA?

WELL, EVERYONE DOES THIS KIND OF WORK

HERE I'LL TAKE HIM!
OH, THANK YOU!
WELL, I'LL BE OFF NOW
YES
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT STUPID HUSBAND!?
OW! OW! OW!
YOU KEEP GOING OUT, I NEVER KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO WORK OR PLAY!

PLEASE COME BACK SAFELY


I'D LOVE TO BE SENT OFF LIKE THAT!
YEAH
SURE MUST BE DIFFERENT BEING A SAMURAI'S WIFE

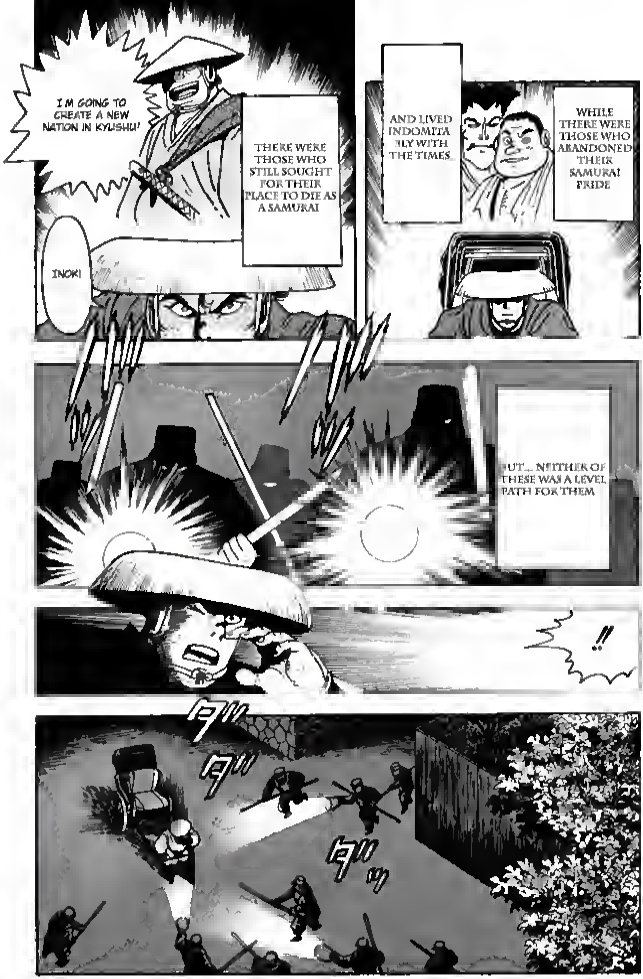
カッカッカッ
A FEW YEARS AFTER THE MEIJI RESTORA TION
THE LOWER SAMURAI AND SHOGUNATE VASSALS DESPERATELY LIVED TO FIND THEIR PLACE IN THIS NEW WORLD

I'M SORRY — I'LL MAKE CHANGE FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY, SO JUST WAIT—
YOU FOOL!
I'M JUST ABOUT TO SALLY FORTH INTO YOSHIWARA! I CAN'T WAIT AROUND HERE!
HUH?
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY CHANGE...?

THAT'S JUST A PAIN IN THE ASS! KEEP THE CHANGE!!

HUH?!
BUT IN RETURN, SHOW ME AN ACT OF SOME KIND!!
FORMER SHOGUNATE VASSAL
UEDA USHINOSUKE

SPIN AROUND THREE TIMES AND BARK!
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU ACT LIKE A DOG!
HAHA
BUT I'M JUST A RICKSHAW MAN I DON'T HAVE ANY ACTS...
I KNOW YOU DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT GETTING SOMETHING FOR NOTHING!
SFX WHOAH WHOAH WHOAH
COME ON, HURRY!
THE GEISHA IS EXPECTING YOU!
HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING OUT THERE!?
N-NO... BUT...
DON'T LAUGH, BARK!
AS THE THREE HUNDRED YEAR TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE COLLAPSED THE MAJORITY OF THE SAMURAI FLOODED INTO THE STREETS AS GENERAL CITIZENS
HERE...
OH!
DON'T PULL ME LIKE THAT...


I'M GOING TO CREATE A NEW NATION IN KYUSHU!
THERE WERE THOSE WHO STILL SOUGHT FOR THEIR PLACE TO DIE AS A SAMURAI
INOKI
AND LIVED INDOMITABLY WITH THE TIMES.
WHILE THERE WERE THOSE WHO ABANDONED THEIR SAMURAI PRIDE
BUT... NEITHER OF THESE WAS A LEVEL PATH FOR THEM
!!

INDEED
YOU'RE UEDA USHINOSUKE, THE FORMER SAMURAI, CORRECT!?
YOU STILL SEEM TO THINK YOU'RE A SHOGUNATE VASSAL, HUH?
"INDEED"
WHAT!?
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF COUNCILLOR HIROSAWA!
W-WHAT ARE YOU...?
SILENCE!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! TIE HIM UP!!!

I'VE NEVER COMMITTED ANY SUCH ASSASSINATION!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?

UNHAND ME, YOU LOW-LIVES!!

HUH!?

COMMIT ANY FURTHER VIOLENCE UPON ME, AND I WILL SHOW YOU NO QUARTER!

UEDA! YOU'LL PAY DEALRY IF YOU RESIST!

CALL REIN-FORCE-MENTS!

IF THAT MAN GETS SERIOUS, YOU'LL HAVE TWO OR THREE DEAD OF-FICERS ON YOUR HANDS

FORGET IT.

CHIBA KYUSAKU

RIGHT, MR UEDA?
THAT VOICE

HUH!?
YOU HAD A MATCH WITH HIM...?
I CROSSED BLADES WITH HIM IN A KENDO COMPETITION!
HA HA!
YOU KNOW THIS MAN, OFFICER CHIBA?

I'LL VOUCH FOR HIM!

THEN AGAIN, HAVING TRAINED AT THE DOJO HIS SKILL HAS STILL MUCH TO BE DESIRED FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...

SIR CHIBA, YOU'RE...

NOW THAT WAS ENTERTAINING!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE KENDO COMPETITION!

酒
めし
HERE
DRINK

UNLESS THEY CAN ADAPT TO THE TIMES.
THE FORMER SAMURAI CAN STARVE VERY QUICKLY IN THIS AGE.

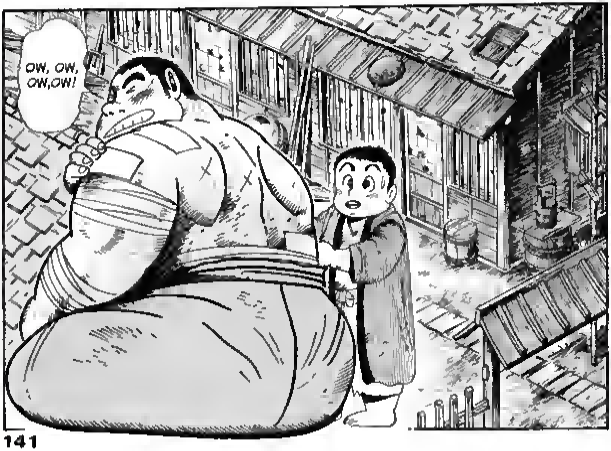
AND NOW YOU'RE AN INVESTI-GATOR FOR THE NEW GOVER-NMENT?
SO, FIRST YOU'RE A SHOWMAN OF THE SWORD...

I, UEDA USHINOSUKE, WOULD NEVER ARREST MY OLD COM-RADES!!
NO MATTER HOW IMPOVERISHED I AM.

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY?

THIS JOB PAYS EVEN BETTER THAN A SHOGUNITE VASSAL!

JUST DON'T TAKE ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIONS... THERE'S A BIG CASE WE'RE FOLLOWING NOW...
NEVER MIND I CAN'T SAY I DISLIKE YOU...
YOU NEVER CHANGE, DO YOU?
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU'D MAKE A GREAT PARTNER.


OW, OW, OW,OW!

I HEAR SIR NAKAMURA WENT THROUGH SOME INTENSE TORTURE...

SIR NAKA-MURA...?

I GOT OFF PRETTY LIGHT...
I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT ALL THE FORMER SAMURAI WERE BEING ARRESTED
I SUPPOSE THEY'RE TRUE.

THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN

HE IS RUNNING A LUKEWARM SWORDSMANSHIP DOJO AFTER ALL

SO THEY GOT YOU, TOO
SIR NAKAMURA!

HAHA!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD OF MY RESIL-IENCE!
FORGET THAT! ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR NAKA-MURA!?

BUT I SEE I'M TOO LATE.
I CAME TO WARN YOU AGAINST THEM

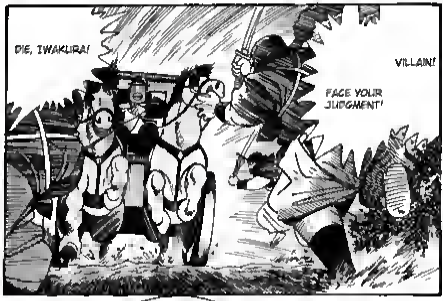
TO MAKE CERTAIN THEY WATCH THEIR BACKS
I'M... GOING TO WARN THE OTHERS
SIR NAKA-MURA!

YES?
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY

NO. IT'S NOTHING

APPROACH TO KUICHI GAI GAI! AKASAKA
ガラ
ガラ

WAAUGH!


DIE, IWAKURA!
VILLAIN!
FACE YOUR JUDGMENT!

ズズ…
FORMER SHOGUNATE VASSAL KOMORI IKUYA
THE ASSAULT ON MINISTER IWAKURA THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST

骨董
森幸

YOU SURE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE WAYS OF THE WORLD MR. KOMORI

WELL, WHEN YOU SIT IN A STORE ALL DAY LONG

YOU HEAR A LOT OF RUMORS WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.

OH?

SEEMS TO BE CONNECTED TO HIS POLICY OF CONQUERING KOREA.

OH, THAT INCIDENT?

THEY EVEN CAME TO TORTURE THIS OLD DECREPIT SAMURAI

WELL, SINCE YOU'RE SO WELL INFORMED!!

WHO DO YOU THINK WAS THE PERPETRATOR OF MINISTER HIROSAWA'S ASSASSINATION?

THIS RUMOR WAS LEAKED FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. IT'S HIGHLY CREDIBLE

IT CAME ABOUT FROM THE POWER STRUGGLE IN CHOSHU

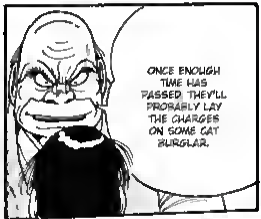
HUH!?

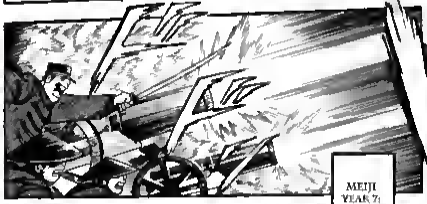
REALLY !?

HIS FELLOW MINISTER, KIDO TAKAYOSHI, WAS BEHIND IT

BUT IT WAS NO DISCONTENTED SAMURAI THAT KILLED HIROSAWA.

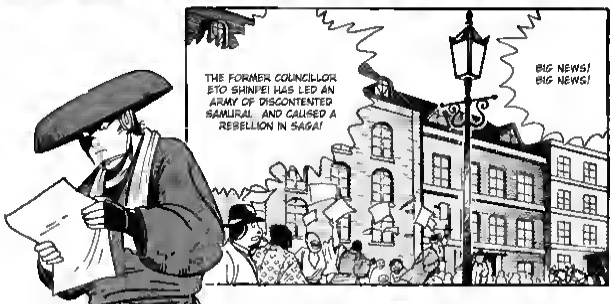
THEN WHO... ?





MEIJI YEAR 7: THE SAGA A REBEL LION BREAKS OUT

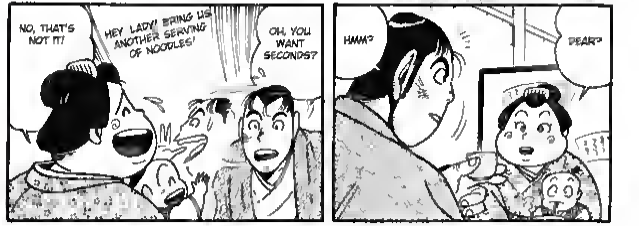
THIS WAS THE FIRST ORGANIZED REBELLION BY THE DISCONTENTED SAMURAI SINCE THE MEIJI RESTORATION


THE FORMER COUNCILLOR ETO SHINPEI HAS LED AN ARMY OF DISCONTENTED SAMURAI AND CAUSED A REBELLION IN SAGA!
BIG NEWS! BIG NEWS!

I'M GOING...
DISCONTENTED SAMURAI LIKE US ARE GATHERING UNDER SIR ETO SHINPEI IN KYUSHU!
HEY, HEDA! LET'S GO TO KYUSHU AND FIGHT LIKE SAMURAI TOGETHER!
WILL YOU DIE LIKE A SAMURAI INOKI ?

EEEE!
HERE THANKS FOR WAITING

TO TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK?
BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT...
ズッ
ズッ


NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
HEY, LADY! BRING US ANOTHER SERVING OF NOODLES!
OH, YOU WANT SECONDS?
HMM?
DEAR?

SIR NAKAMURA.
KWA HAHA!

SIGN. BEEF HOT POT

SO IS YOUR FAMILY DOING WELL?

MY FAMILY LEFT TO JOIN THEIR OLD FAMILY...

HUH?

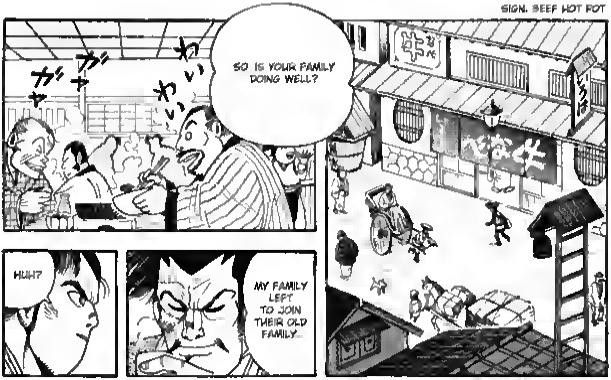
I QUIT THE DOJO

WAS IT... BECAUSE OF THE TORTURE OVER COUNCILLOR HIROSAWA'S ASSASSINATION?

WERE YOU TORTURED THAT BADLY?

THIS AMOUNT OF TORTURE IS NOTHING TO ME...

IT'S BECAUSE MANY SAMURAI FROM MY FIEF



WERE PARTICIPATING IN THE SAGA REBELLION!

SFX: WAHAHAHAAHAHA!

BUT THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL THAT SURVIVED AND ARE PLANNING THEIR NEXT REVOLT!!

NATURALLY MANY OF THEM PERISHED IN SAGA.

I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE ELSE TELLS ME!

NO!

SIR NAKA-MURA

BECAUSE I HAVE DECIDED TO LIVE AS A SAMURAI ONCE MORE!!

BUT I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!

I SUCKED UP AND PERSEVERED THROUGH THE ABOLITION OF FIEFS AND THE ABOLITION OF STIPENDS!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

W...

YOU...
AS SOON AS THEY GATHER IN GREAT ENOUGH NUMBERS I WILL DEPART TO KYUSHU WITH THEM...

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE SECRETLY GATHERING PEOPLE WITH PATRIOTIC INTENT

HEHE...
THEN DON'T ASK...
NO... THAT'S

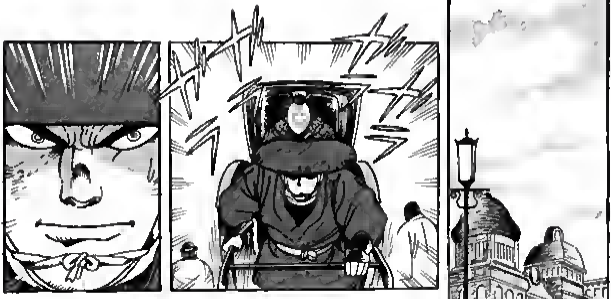
CAN YOU TRUST THEM?
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE RECRUITING PEOPLE WITH PATRIOTIC INTENT...?

I DON'T MIND REVEALING THEIR IDENTITY.
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO JOIN US

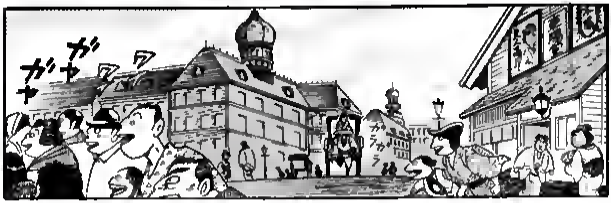
EVERYONE LIVES THEIR LIFE DIFFERENTLY

THIS MAY BE OUR FINAL FAREWELL
ス...

SIR NAKAMURA
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FAMILY...



EVERYONE LEADS THEIR LIFE DIFFERENTLY...



SEEMS LIKE THEY ROUNDED UP ALL THE DISCONTENTED SAMURAI THAT TOOK PART IN THE SAGA REBELLION!

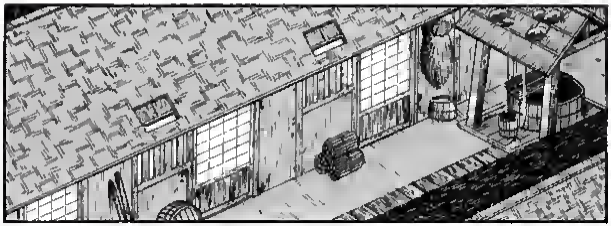
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
HUH?

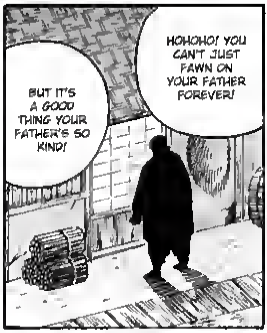
SIR NAKA-MURA!

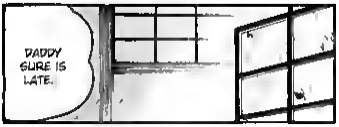
CHIBA!

NO TALKING TO CRIMINALS!
HEY, STAND DOWN!

STAND DOWN OR YOU'LL BE UNDER ARREST!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A SAMURAI!
COME ON, STAND UP!
STAY BACK, STAY BACK!




BUT IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR FATHER'S SO KIND!
HOHOHO! YOU CAN'T JUST FAWN ON YOUR FATHER FOREVER!


DADDY SURE IS LATE.

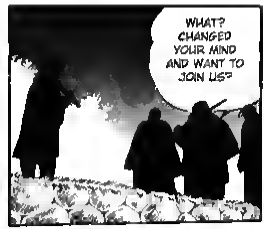
I WANNA SLEEP WITH DADDY!
HE'LL BE HOME SOON.

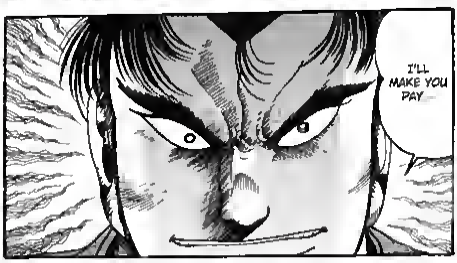
懷石
料亭
田上

YEAH!
ALRIGHT. LET'S GO FOR ANOTHER DRINK!

HMM?

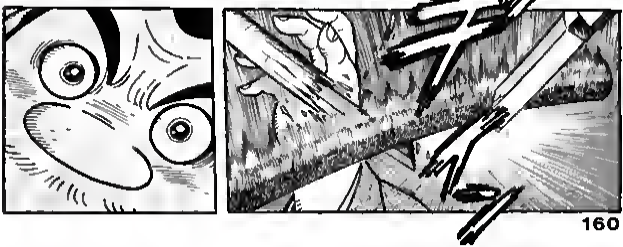
SFX: WAHAHAHAHA!



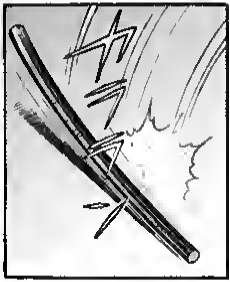


I'M A GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR!
HAVE YOU GONE MAD!?
SAY NO MORE!
URYAAAAH!
ARRRGHHHHH!

ARRRRRGH!
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME!?
ギィー
DON'T DO ANYTHING POINT-LESS!
I'VE FIGURED OUT YOUR EVERY MOVE!

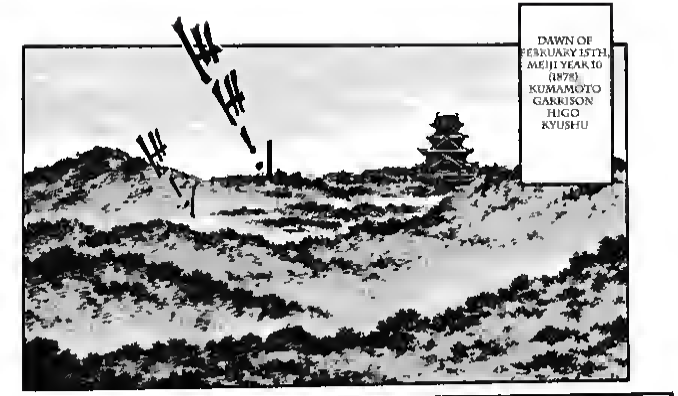


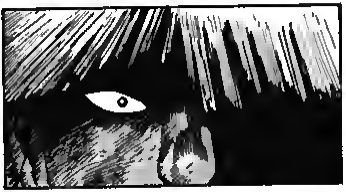
WAU-GH!
GYAAAAH!
AHH... OFFICER CHIBA!



HUFF... WHEEZE
HUFF HUFF

OF THE WANDERING OF THE FORMER SHOGUNATE VASSAL UEDA USHI NOSUKE
AND SO, THIS NIGHT MARKED THE BEGINNING...


DAWN OF FEBRUARY 15TH, MEIJI YEAR 10 (1877)
KUMAMOTO GARRISON
HIGO
KYUSHU



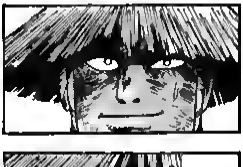
HEY!
HALT!

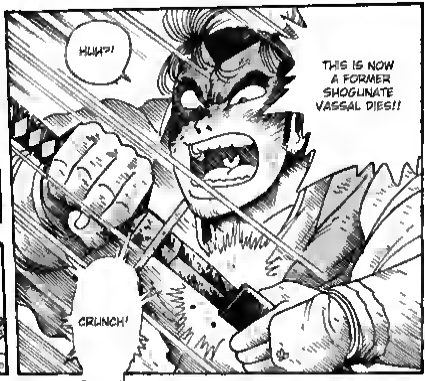
OHH

FORMER SHOGUNATE VASSAL UEDA USHINOSUKE!!
CHAPTER 8

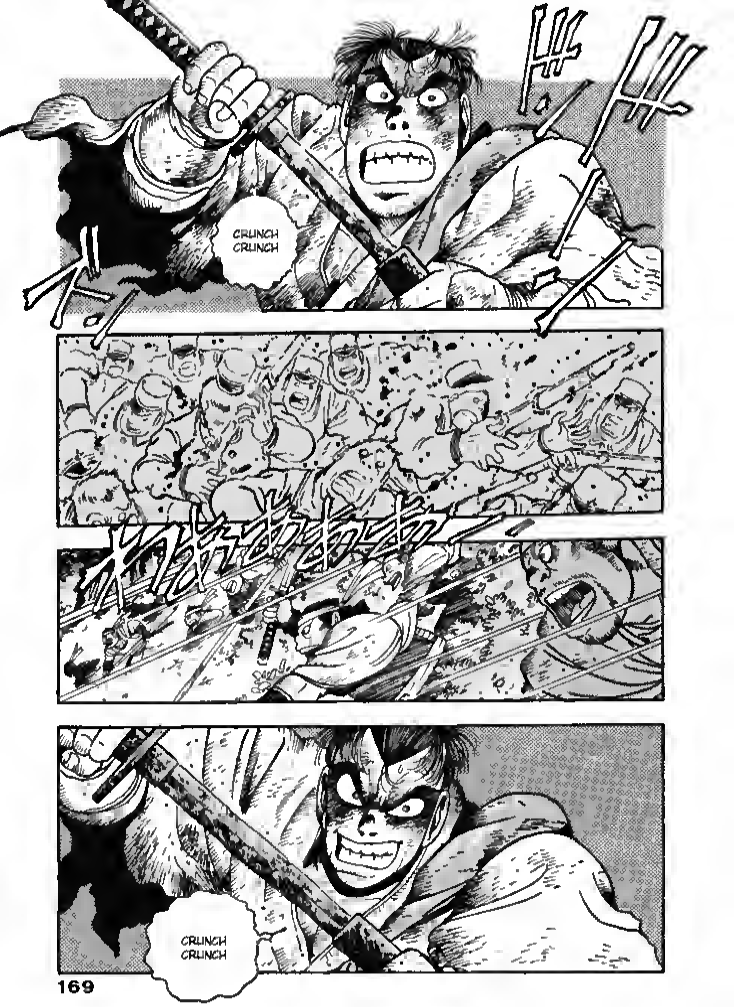
I SHALL SLAUGHTER YOU BEFORE I ENTER KUMAMOTO CASTLE!
BACK OFF! YOU GOVERNMENT CONSCRIPTS ARE NO MATCH FOR ME!
URK!
DO YOU INTEND TO JOIN SAIGO'S ARMY IN SATSUMA!?
YOU'RE ONE OF THE DISCONTENT SAMURAI!!
HUH...?
OH!

READY!
AHHH...





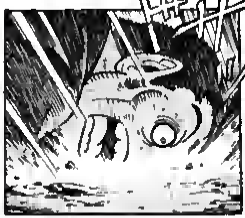
CRUNCH! CRUNCH!


CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

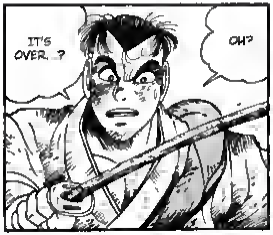
GWAAAAAUGH!!
UWAAAUGH!

UIRAAAH!
GYAAAAAH!
AIEEE!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

GYRRRRRRR!
AIIIAH!!!



OH!
OHH!


IT'S OVER. ?
OH?

OH

UEDA!

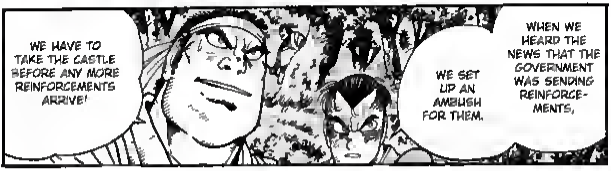
INOKI!

THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT BE A LITTLE LATE!
YEAH!
SO YOU CAME TOO, EH!?

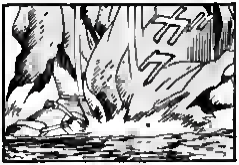
THE BATTLE WENT BETTER THAN WE EXPECTED BECAUSE YOU DREW THEIR ATTENTION

THIS IS THE VANGUARD OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S REINFORCEMENTS.
HE HE!
BUT WHO ARE THESE...?

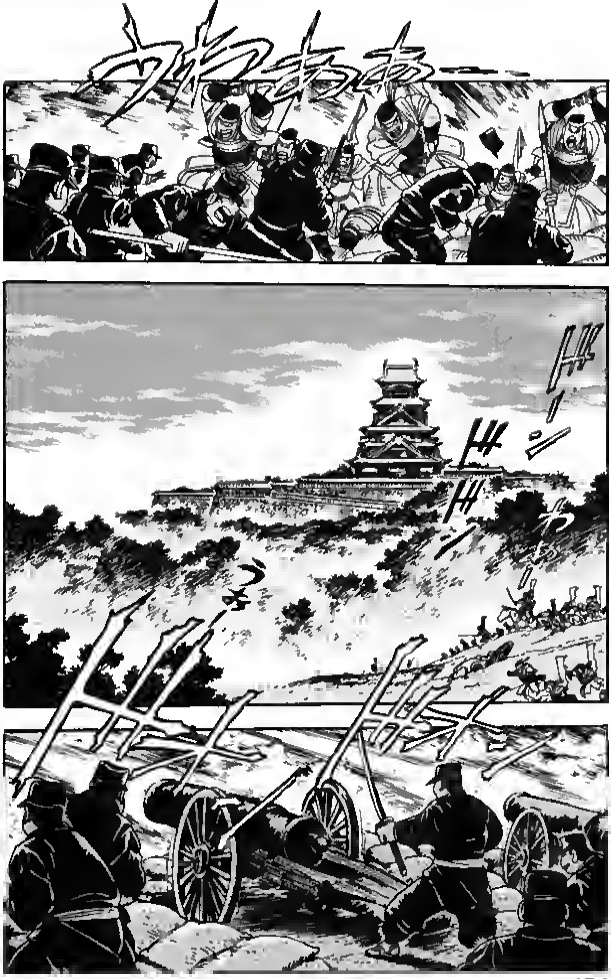
OUR FORCES ARE ASSAULTING KUMAMOTO GARRISON AS WE SPEAK!


WE HAVE TO TAKE THE CASTLE BEFORE ANY MORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE!
WE SET UP AN AMBUSH FOR THEM.
WHEN WE HEARD THE NEWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SENDING REINFORCEMENTS,

IT'S MY STOMACH! I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING TO EAT SINCE EDO!



URRGH
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU INJURED?



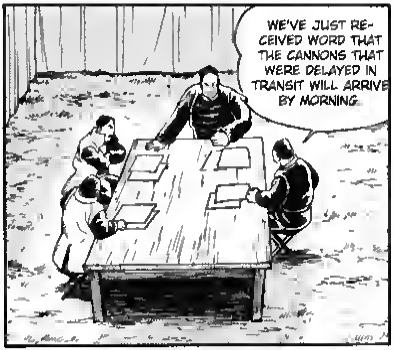
HAVING FACED A BITTER EXPERIENCE IN EVERY REBELLION... WHETHER SAGA, JINPUREN HAGI OR AKIZUKI
THE DISCONTENTED SAMURAI ENTRUSTED THEIR FINAL HOPE TO SAIGO TAKAMORI, WHO HAD RETURNED TO SATSUMA, DEFEATED BY THE KOREAN INVASIONISTS
YES.
MASTER... WE SHOULD RETREAT TO FUJISAKIDAI FOR NOW, UNTIL OUR ARTILLERY ARRIVES

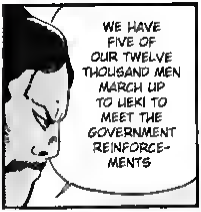
THAT THE ARMY OF SATSUMA, WHO THOUGHT THE CASTLE WOULD FALL WITHIN THE DAY, MADE A STRATEGIC ERROR RIGHT FROM THE START
IN FACT, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GARRISON COMMANDER OF THE TIME, TANI KANJO, WAS SO EXCELLENT...
I SUPPOSE I HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED THIS SAGAN NAMED TANI!
THE GARRISON FORCES SEEM READY TO DEFEND THE CASTLE TO THE DEATH, DESPITE ONLY NUMBERING THREE HUNDRED

I AGREE WITH KIRINO
SHINOBARA KUNIMOTO

IF WE KEEP UP THE ATTACK, THE CASTLE WILL FALL BY MORNING!
KIRINO TOSHIAKI

BUT WE'VE ALSO RECEIVED WORD THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S REINFORCEMENTS LEFT KOKURA THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
BEPPU SHINSUKE


WE'VE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE CANNONS THAT WERE DELAYED IN TRANSIT WILL ARRIVE BY MORNING


WE HAVE FIVE OF OUR TWELVE THOUSAND MEN MARCH UP TO UEKI TO MEET THE GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS

WHAT DO YOU SAY THAT WE DIVIDE THE ARMY IN TWO?
WHICH MEANS THE GOVERNMENT WILL ASSAULT US FROM BEHIND IF WE TAKE TOO LONG

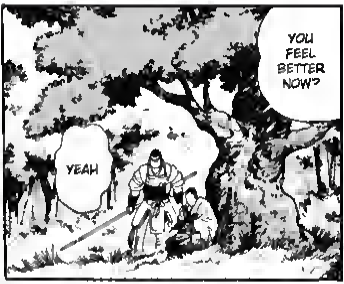
YES, SIR!

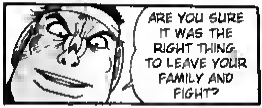
HEY!
GO AND CHECK IF THE MASTER IS STILL SLEEPING!

HMM.

WE SHOULD CONSULT MASTER SAIGO FIRST

I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS FULL IN DAYS


YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
YEAH


ARE YOU SURE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO LEAVE YOUR FAMILY AND FIGHT?

I HAVE COME THIS FAR IN SEARCH OF A PLACE TO LIVE AND DIE!!
I AM A SAMURAI!
I HAVE ABANDONED ALL REGRETS!

NO POINT IN ASKING THAT NOW

HMM!?

SAIGO TAKA-MORI
THAT'S SIR SAIGO

MAS-TER!

MASTER!

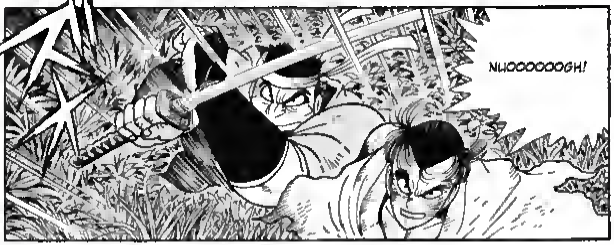
I COULD NOT SLEEP, SO I WENT OUT FOR A WALK
YES
MASTER! ARE YOU ALONE?

HOW CARELESS OF YOU!
SO, YOU'VE COME TO SUCH A SECLUDED PLACE ALONE.

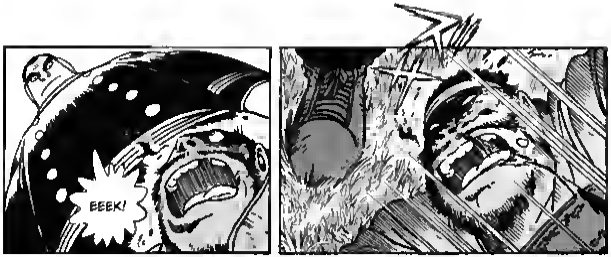
KEEEEEEEEE!

EVEN A RUSTED SWORD CAN KILL WITH ENOUGH FORCE.

YOU BAST-ARD!
Y-


NUOOOOOOGH!

HUH!?


EEEK!

ARE YOU A SATSUMAN?

THE MASTER'S BEEN ATTACKED BY ASSASSINS!!
WHAT!?

MAS-TER!
MAS-TER!
IF YOU'RE REALLY A SAMURAI, ACT LIKE IT!
THERE MUST BE MORE ASSASSINS OUT THERE!

DO NOT WORRY...
ARE YOU HURT!?

AS LONG AS YOU LIVE, THIS WAR...
WE HAD NO CHOICE, MASTER!

THE MEN HERE SAVED MY LIFE.

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I, THE ONE WHO MAY AS WELL HAVE OVERTHROWN THE SHOGUNATE WOULD BE SAVED BY A FORMER SHOGUNATE VASSAL

I STILL HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK HIM!!

LET'S KILL HIM!
WAIT!
AH!
HE'S THE ONE WHO WENT AFTER THE MASTER!!

ANY FIEND WHO WOULD DARE ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE MASTER'S LIFE DESERVES NOTHING BUT BEHEADING!

WHAT HAVE YOU...?

HE IS AN ASSASSIN FROM TOKYO!
THE LION OF THE EAST!?

BUT HE WAS ALREADY

SHOW THE LION OF THE EAST NO QUARTER!

MGGGH... BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT... THAT HE WOULD TURN THE MASTER'S COUNTRYMEN INTO ASSASSINS THEN LEAVE.

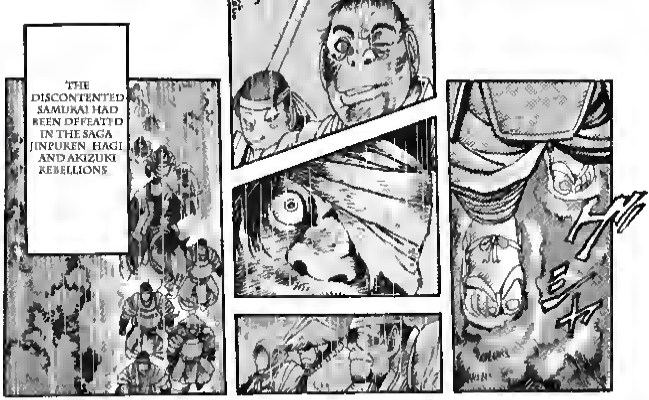
THAT BRAT... HE ONLY BECAME POLICE COMMISSIONER BECAUSE MASTER SAIGO CHOSE HIM! HOW UNGRATEFUL CAN HE BE!?

THESE MEN WERE BOTH POLICEMEN UNDER KAWAJI OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

YOU MEAN KAWAJI TOSHIYOSHI!?

THE GOVERNMENT REINFORCEMENTS ARE TO THE NORTHEAST OF THE GARRISON!!

CHAPTER 8: END


THE DISCONTENTED SAMURAI HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN THE SAGA JINPUKEN HAGI AND AKIZUKI REBELLIONS

NOW THEY HAVE ENTRUSTED THEIR FINAL HOPE TO SAIGO TAKAMORI AND ASSAULTED THE KUMAMOTO GARRISON IN HIGO KYOSHI!

HAVING FAILED TO TAKE KUMAMOTO GARRISON THE SATSUMA ARMY FACED THE REIN FORCEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARMY THAT GRADUALLY APPROACHED THEM.

CHAPTER 9

WE HAVE NO NEED OF CANNONS!
ENOUGH!
BUT SIR KIRINO!
ABANDON THE CANNONS AND PUT THE WOUNDED ON HORSES!!

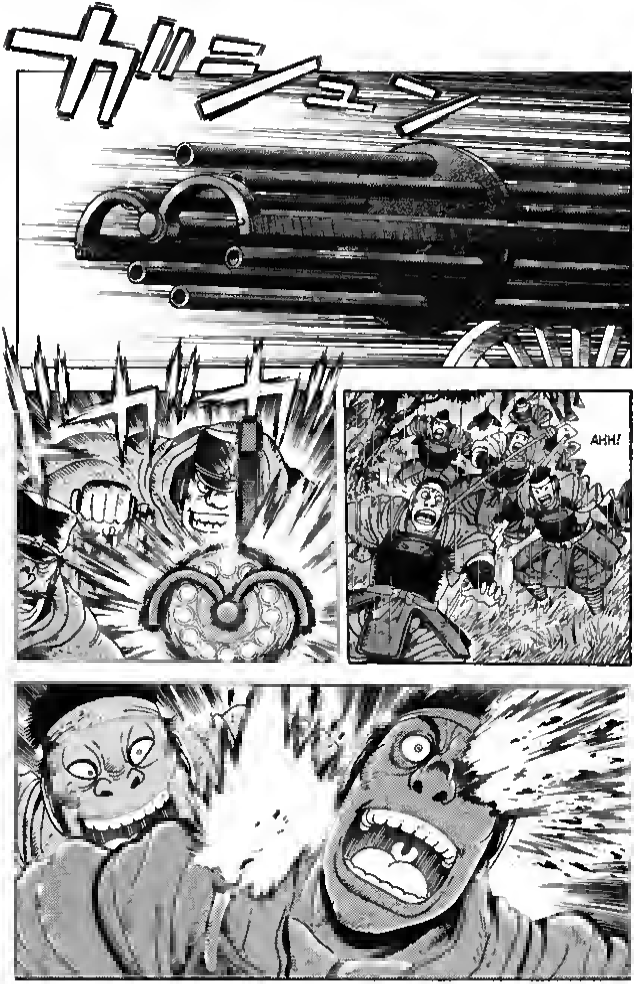
ONCE THEY'RE GONE, THE SATSUMA ARMY WILL LOSE THEIR WILL TO FIGHT!!
OUR TARGETS ARE SAIGO AND KIRINO!

BAS-
TARD!

ONLY HELL AWAITS YOU!!
ARRRRGH!

NONE OF YOU GOVERNMENT LAPDOGS WILL TAKE ANOTHER STEP FORWARD AND LIVE!!

OHHH!
あ あ
!?
!?

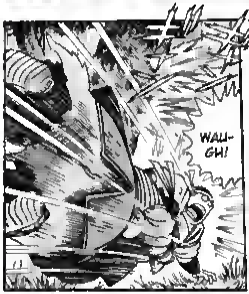

ガシュン
ドカカカ
AHH!

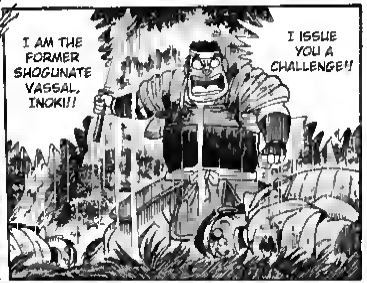
ガガ
ガガ
ガガ

THEY'LL CUT US ALL DOWN AT THIS RATE!
IT'S A GATLING GUN! RETREAT!

WA-UGH!

DAMN YOU, COWARDS!


WAU-GH!


I AM THE FORMER SHOGUNATE VASSAL, INOKI!!
I ISSUE YOU A CHALLENGE!!

BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT ARMY'S MOSTLY MADE UP OF PEASANTS AND TOWNSFOLK! THEY DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT BUSHIDO!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? THIS ISN'T THE AGE OF WARRING STATES!

FALL BACK AND REGROUP!
FALL BACK!
ズズーン…

HAVING BEEN DEFEATED AT TABARUZAKA, AND UNABLE TO MAKE A RECOVERY THROUGH THE BATTLES OF HITOYOSHI HYUGA, OR NOBEOKA
THE ARMY OF SATSUMA RETREATED TO THEIR HOMETOWN AS IF LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DIE...
OF SAIGO'S ASSOCIATES SASAHARA AND NAGAYAMA PERISHED IN BATTLE THE SATSUMA ARMY OF TWELVE THOUSAND WAS NOW SCATTERED

BY THE TIME SAIGO GARRISONED HIMSELF IN SHIROYAMA, WHERE HE WOULD MEET HIS DEMISE HIS FORCES NUMBERED A MERE THREE HUNDRED.
GOVERNMENT FORCES BESIEGED SHIROYAMA, URGING SAIGO TO SURRENDER

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE CAN SURVIVE A FULL-ON ATTACK.

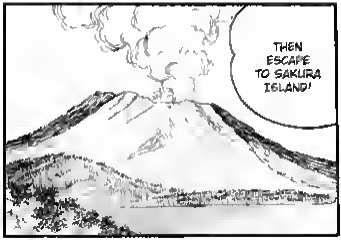
THEY WILL BEGIN A BOMBARDMENT
THEY WARNED US THAT UNLESS WE SURRENDER BY NOON...

IN THIS CASE, WE SHOULD ALL CUT OURSELVES OPEN LIKE MEN!

SIR KIRINO

WHAT'S THAT PATHETIC NONSENSE YOU'RE SPOUTING?

WE'LL CHARGE THEM, MASTER. YOU ESCAPE IN THE MEANTIME


THEN ESCAPE TO SAKURA ISLAND!

I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY. I HAVE NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.

I CAN'T IMPOSE ON YOUR RELATIVES, SIR MURATA!!
I HAVE RELATIVES THERE!

IT'S HARDLY IMPOSING!! YOU'RE THE TREASURE OF THE SATSUMANS!

YEAH
LOOKS LIKE THE END IS DRAWING NEAR.

SIR SHINSUKE! MAKE SURE YOU PROTECT THE MASTER!

HUH ?
CAN I ASK YOU TWO TO STAND BY SIR SHINSUKE'S SIDE?

YES!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET GOING, SIR MURATA!

YOU WOULD MAKE OUTCASTS OF US!?
WHAT...? WHY NOW!? WE CAME HERE TO FIGHT!!

AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES... HE IS IN YOUR HANDS
HAHA... I KNOW NOW YOU FEEL BUT THE MASTER MAY HAVE TO RUN TO TOKYO EVENTUALLY...

NOW... LET US SHOW THEM THE TERROR OF THE SATSUMANS!

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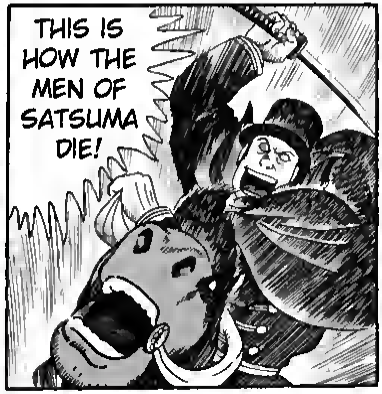
THIS IS HOW THE MEN OF SATSUMA DIE!

BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO ESCAPE TO SAKURA ISLAND FROM HERE

DAMN
MASTER, WE MUST BE GOING
ドドド

SIR KIRINO AND HIS MEN ARE LAYING DOWN THEIR LIVES SO WE CAN ESCAPE...
WHAT'S ALL THIS NOW, SIR BEPPU?

DOES THE GREAT SAIGO OF SATSUMA NOT KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP!?

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WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO PROTECT SIR SAIGO, TOO
WHY'RE YOU...?
SIRS TONO AND YAMADA.

KYEEEEEEEE!
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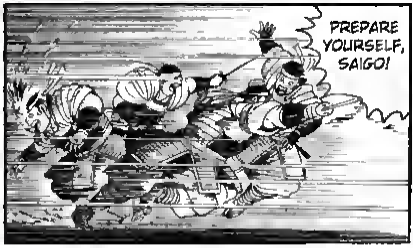
OHHH! THAT'S REASSURING!


PREPARE YOURSELF, SAIGO!

INOKI! PROTECT MASTER SAIGO!
YOU MUST BE THE LION OF THE EAST!!
URYAH!
MUOOOH!
DWAAAHHHH!

ARGH!
NWAAH!

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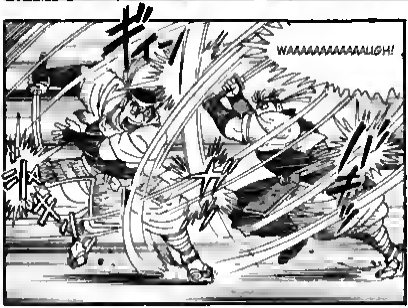
I WON'T LET ANYONE LAY THEIR HANDS ON MASTER SAIGO!
HEDA... FIGHT TO YOUR HEART'S CONT-ENT!!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WAAAAAAAAAAAUGH!

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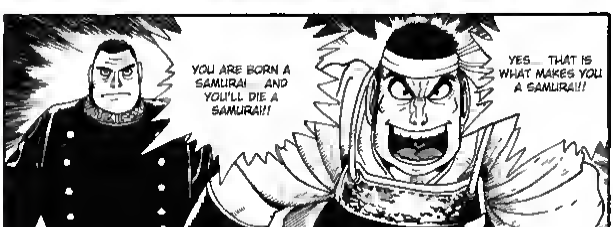
DEI!


YOU ARE BORN A SAMURAI... AND YOU'LL DIE A SAMURAI!!
YES... THAT IS WHAT MAKES YOU A SAMURAI!!!

ENJOY THE THRILL OF BEING A SAMURAI!!
GOOO!

INOKI!!!!!

SIR SHINSUKE!
SO YOU WERE THE LION OF THE EAST!
BEPPU SHIN-SUKE, YOU BAST-ARD!

YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND!
THE TRUE RESTORATION CAN NEVER BE FULFILLED WITHOUT YOUR DEATH!
MAS-TER.

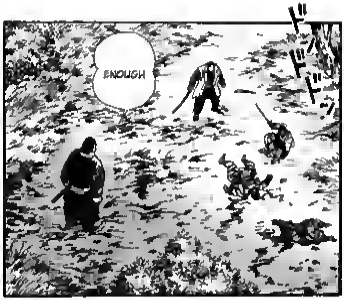
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND!
THE DISCONTENT SAMU-RAI WILL KEEP DREAM-ING FUTILE DREAMS AS LONG AS YOU LIVE!

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND!

ARRRRGH!
SILENCE, TRAITOR!

YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL!
URK!
AR-GH!
ENOUGH!!!!

DO WHAT YOU MUST, SIR SHINSUKE.

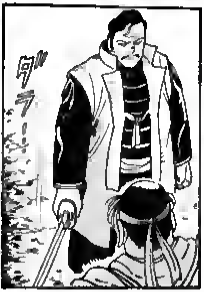

ENOUGH

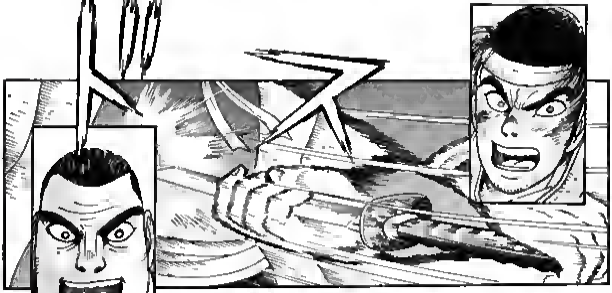
BESIDES, I AM QUITE TIRED
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL

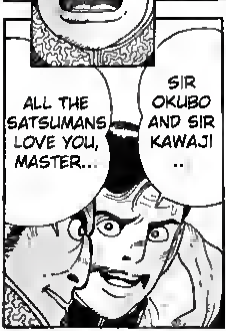
MASTER SAISO!

IT SEEMS THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO

I JUST CANNOT KILL YOU, MASTER.
I'VE HAD COUNTLESS CHANCES TO KILL YOU...
BUT...






ALL THE SATSUMANS LOVE YOU, MASTER...
SIR OKUBO AND SIR KAWAJI ..

SIR SHINSUKE!!

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ドーン

HUH?
I WANT YOU TO SHOW MY HEAD TO THE GOVERN-MENT.

MAY I ASK YOU ONE MORE REQUEST?

ASK ME ANYTHING!

I DON'T WANT ANY MORE REBELLIONS TO OCCUR ON MY ACCOUNT...
GUOOGH!
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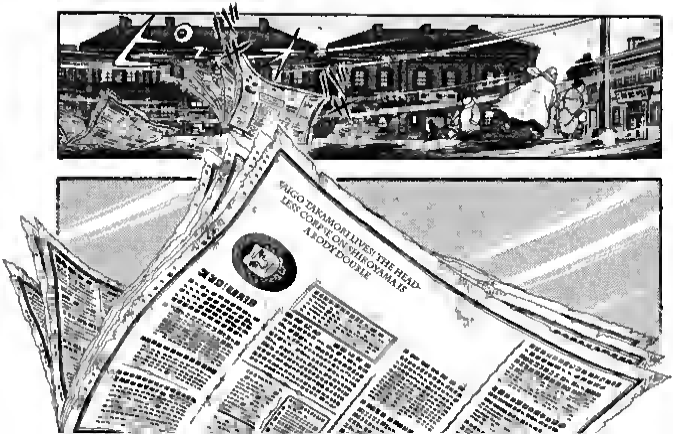
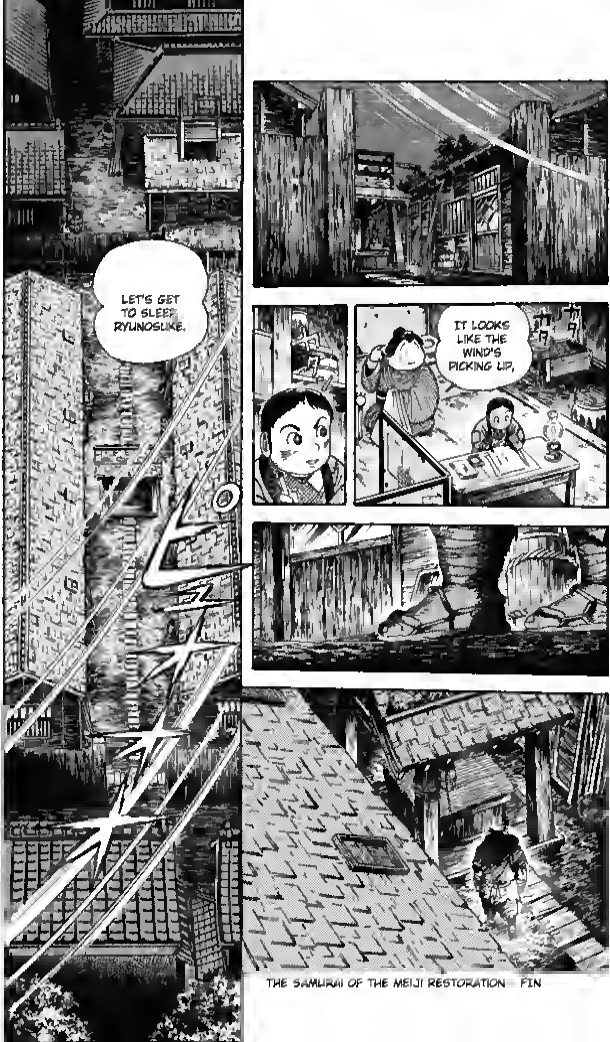
TOKYO, THREE YEARS SINCE THE SATSUMA REBEL-LION...





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